

EXHIBIT 4

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

PLANNED PARENTHOOD SOUTH)
ATLANTIC, et al.,)
Plaintiffs)
vs.)
JOSHUA STEIN, et al.,)
Defendants)
and)
PHILIP E. BERGER, et al.,)
Intervenor-Defendants)

REMOTE DEPOSITION

OF

SUSAN BANE, M.D., PhD.

August 31, 2023 - 2:05 P.M.

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I N D E X

E X A M I N A T I O N S

EXAMINATION	PAGE
Examination by Ms. Salvador	6
Examination by Mr. Boyle	142

E X H I B I T S

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Ex-P	Declaration and C.V.	19
Ex-Q	Bartlett Study	61
Ex-R	2021 Maternal Mortality Rates	62
Ex-S	NC Maternal Mortality Review Report	64
Ex-T	CDC Abortion Surveillance	65
Ex-U	Abortion Legislation in Mexico	68
Ex-V	Niinimaki, et al.	71
Ex-W	Fjerstad-Niinimaki Report	73
Ex-X	Mota Study	75
Ex-Y	Fergusson Study	81
Ex-Z	Karalis Mortality Study	88
Ex-AA	Shah and Zao Study	97
Ex-BB	ACOG Practice Bulletin	115
Ex-CC	Care Net Affiliation Agreement	126
Ex-DD	Care Net Statement of Faith	128
Ex-EE	Standards of Affiliation	131

1 SUSAN BANE, M.D., PhD, after having been
2 first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

3 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Good afternoon, ladies
4 and gentlemen. We are going on the remote video record on
5 Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 2:05 p.m. I am Carrie Rapaport in
6 association with Discovery Court Reporters in Raleigh, North
7 Carolina. This is a matter pending before the United States
8 District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina in the
9 case captioned Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, et al.
10 versus Joshua Stein, et al. and Philip E. Berger, et al. Case
11 number 1:23-cv-00480-CCE-LPA.

12 This is the start of media one, volume one of
13 the deposition of Susan Bane, M.D., Ph.D. The deposition is
14 being taken on behalf of the plaintiffs. Starting with the
15 questioning attorney, I will ask counsel to identify
16 yourselves, state who you represent and whether co-counsel or
17 your client are in attendance.

18 MS. SALVADOR: This is Anjali Salvador with
19 Planned Parenthood Federation of America on behalf of Planned
20 Parenthood South Atlantic. I do have co-counsel with me here
21 today.

22 MR. BOYLE: Good afternoon. My name is Ellis
23 Boyle, Wake County Bar. I am representing the legislative
24 defendants Berger and Moore and I am joined by Julie Payne with
25 the ADF who is co-counsel.

1 MS. GRAUNKE: Hi, everyone. I'm Kristi Graunke
2 from the ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation, appearing for
3 all plaintiffs. I'm joined today by Elisa Sturkie who is a UNC
4 law student who is externing with us, and also by my co-counsel
5 Brigitte Amiri and Ryan Mendias from ACLU's national office.

6 MS. SWANSON: Hi. This is Hannah --

7 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is --

8 MS. SWANSON: Oh, I'm sorry.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Go ahead, Hannah.

10 MS. SWANSON: Thank you. This is Hannah
11 Swanson also from Planned Parenthood Federation of America for
12 Planned Parenthood South Atlantic.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Kevin Williams from
14 the Forsyth County Bar and I represent District Attorney Jim
15 O'Neill.

16 MS. NARASIMHAN: Good afternoon. My name is
17 Sripiya Narasimhan with the North Carolina Department of
18 Justice representing Attorney General Joshua Stein.

19 MS. O'BRIEN: Good afternoon. I'm Elizabeth
20 O'Brien also from the North Carolina Department of Justice. I
21 represent the DA defendants other than DA O'Neill and my
22 clients are not present, nor is co-counsel.

23 MR. BULLERI: I'm Michael Bulleri, also with
24 the North Carolina Department of Justice. I represent the
25 North Carolina Medical Board, North Carolina Board of Nursing.

1 MS. CROWLEY: Colleen Crowley also with the
2 North Carolina Department of Justice. I represent North
3 Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

4 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Thank you. As the
5 witness has already been sworn in, you may proceed, Counsel.

6 BY MS. SALVADOR:

7 Q. Dr. Bane, good afternoon and thank you for being here
8 today. My name is Anjali Salvador and I'm one of the attorneys
9 representing Planned Parenthood South Atlantic in this case.
10 While we're talking here I might refer to it as PPSAT.

11 Could you please state your full name for the record?

12 A. Yes, I'm Susan Bane.

13 Q. All right. Thank you. We're going to start with some
14 housekeeping and ground rules. Do you understand that you're
15 under oath today the same way that you would be in a court room
16 and that you're obligated to answer my questions truthfully and
17 completely?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So as you heard, we have a court reporter with us
20 today who will be taking down what we say for a transcript. So
21 please make an effort to continue giving all of your answers
22 verbally like you are instead of nodding or shaking your head.
23 Okay?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Also, because of the transcript, we're going to need

1 to do our best not to talk over each other. So please wait for
2 me to finish each question before answering and I'll wait for
3 you to finish before asking my next question. Okay?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Great. I'll do my very best to ask clear questions.
6 If you don't understand a question, please feel free to let me
7 know and I'll rephrase it or repeat it, whatever you need. But
8 if you do answer I'm going to assume you have understood my
9 question. Okay?

10 A. That sounds good.

11 Q. Great. If at any point either in the moment or later
12 in the deposition you realize that you have made a mistake with
13 a prior answer or you want to clarify something, that's totally
14 fine, just let me know. Okay?

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. If at any point you need a break, please let me or
17 your attorney know and we'll take one, with the exception that
18 if I'm in the middle of a question you'll have to answer it
19 before we take that break.

20 Do you understand?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. During the deposition your attorney may object to some
23 of my questions. But unless your attorney directly tells you
24 not to answer the question, you still have to answer it.

25 Do you understand?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And have you turned off your cell phone like the
3 videographer asked?

4 A. I have.

5 Q. Great.

6 A. Excuse me. Did you say turn off it or -- I muted it.

7 Q. It would be great if you could either -- definitely
8 silence it, but turning it off would be preferable just so we
9 know you're not looking at it during the deposition.

10 A. Okay. So I just have it turned over on its backside,
11 plus it's muted.

12 Q. That's fine. So this is a little invasive and I
13 apologize, but it's a standard question at the start of
14 depositions. Are you dealing with any illness or taking any
15 substance that would affect your memory or prevent you from
16 being able to understand and answer my questions today?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Thanks. Have you ever had your deposition taken
19 before?

20 A. I have.

21 Q. How many times?

22 A. As in expert witness?

23 Q. Both as an expert witness or as a fact witness, if
24 that's happened.

25 A. So I was an expert in a medical malpractice case and

1 then I have a son with special needs and I was an expert in a
2 case related to him.

3 Q. Did either of those --

4 A. Sorry, I wasn't an expert. I was his mom.

5 Q. Understood. Did either of those cases relate to
6 abortion in any way?

7 A. They did not.

8 Q. Other than the report you submitted in this case, have
9 you submitted a -- I'm sorry, the declaration -- have you
10 submitted a declaration in a legal case before?

11 A. I have not.

12 Q. Have you testified in any court before?

13 A. Yes, in the case that I was the expert witness, the
14 malpractice case.

15 Q. Got it. What -- so you said you were an expert in
16 that case, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. So you were not a party in that case?

19 A. No, I was not.

20 Q. Have you testified before any legislative body?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you describe that testimony, please?

23 A. Sure. I have testified three times at the North
24 Carolina State Legislation. One was on the Bill SB20. One was
25 on a conscience right, conscience protection bill, and the

1 other was on the bill related to gender affirmation care in
2 minors.

3 Q. Got it.

4 MS. SALVADOR: Counsel, at the break could we
5 get copies of that testimony, please?

6 MR. BOYLE: Are you asking me?

7 MS. SALVADOR: Yes. I think we had asked you
8 to produce Dr. Bane's testimony as one of our requests for
9 production.

10 MR. BOYLE: I don't think she has it.

11 MS. SALVADOR: Okay.

12 BY MS. SALVADOR:

13 Q. Dr. Bane, was that verbal testimony?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Could you describe the nature of your
16 testimony on SB20, please?

17 A. Yes. I was one of -- I believe they had 10
18 individuals have -- I think we had one-and-a-half -- one or two
19 minutes and it was -- so it was the public who could testify.
20 I think they had 10 of us who supported the bill and 10 who did
21 not. And so I spoke as a citizen of North Carolina and a
22 medical doctor, an ob-gyn, why I supported the bill.

23 Q. Why did you support the bill, according to your
24 testimony?

25 A. I supported the bill because as a medical doctor I

1 don't believe the direct and intentional killing of another
2 human being is part of medical practice and that for 50 years
3 we have basically had unfettered access to abortion in the
4 United States and it has not impacted maternal mortality, that
5 women in North Carolina need solutions, not greater access.
6 And that we need to look at root causes. And that this bill
7 has provisions to support women who are in that position of an
8 unplanned pregnancy and have socioeconomic, typically, factors
9 are the main ones that both the literature and I see in my
10 practice as the reasons and there are provisions in the bill to
11 support them.

12 Q. Thank you for that description. You mentioned that
13 you also testified on a bill relating to I believe you said
14 freedom of conscience, is that correct?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. Could you please describe your testimony for that
17 bill?

18 MR. BOYLE: Objection. I want to put on the
19 record that there's been a lot of comment from the plaintiff's
20 side about focusing this case on -- at this stage of discovery
21 on the preliminary injunction hearing and I don't know if she
22 may be talking about something that's germane to that.

23 MS. SALVADOR: That's a speaking objection and
24 speaking objections aren't allowed under the rules. So your
25 objection is noted.

1 BY MS. SALVADOR:

2 Q. Dr. Bane, if you could please answer.

3 A. Sure. So I don't have in my head what I said as
4 fresh, but I spoke basically about the fact that conscience
5 rights, so what is ethically and morally allowed -- that we
6 have a right both as healthcare practitioners of all sorts to
7 be able to recognize our conscience and not have to do things
8 that go against our conscience. I would say that's the gist of
9 what I talked about.

10 Q. And you said the third bill was related to gender, is
11 that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was there anything in your testimony related to
14 abortion for that bill?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Got it. Thank you. Do you have any notes or files
17 related to this case with you right now either in front of you
18 in hard copy or open digitally?

19 A. I don't have anything open digitally that I can see.
20 If you ask me to go to something I have digital copies of
21 things. I have my clean copy of my declaration here and then I
22 have -- sometimes when I listen I like to take notes, so I have
23 this pad which I put all your names when you introduced
24 yourselves, but it's empty otherwise.

25 Q. Understood. Thank you.

1 A. And then over -- way over -- I'm in a hotel room, a
2 desk, I have all the copies of -- in my declaration of the
3 references I used. Actually I probably have the majority of
4 them. Some were digital and too long.

5 Q. Got it. Thank you. So when were you first contacted
6 about participating as an expert witness in this case?

7 A. I think it was about a month ago.

8 Q. And who specifically have you communicated with
9 regarding this case?

10 A. Julia Payne with ADF reached out to me and then -- and
11 I have talked to Ellis about it. The other person is Dr. John
12 Thorpe who's at Chapel Hill. He is a colleague and friend of
13 mine and was -- I think and potentially be involved and then
14 they decided I would do it.

15 Q. What did you speak to Dr. Thorpe about?

16 A. He is experienced regarding -- he's done a lot of
17 depositions. So I actually asked him because I had never done
18 one with the law, what to expect with the deposition.

19 Q. Did he contribute any sources for you to use in your
20 declaration?

21 A. He did not.

22 Q. Did he give you advice on what would go into your
23 declaration?

24 A. No. We talked about the logistics of the deposition
25 itself.

1 Q. And you mentioned that you thought he was originally
2 going to be involved in this case. How do you know that?

3 A. When Julia reached out to individuals to potentially
4 be in the case, he was one of the people on the email.

5 Q. Do you know why you rather than he are an expert in
6 this case?

7 MR. BOYLE: I'm going to object and I'm going
8 to instruct you not to answer that. That would be work
9 product. That's protected.

10 BY MS. SALVADOR:

11 Q. Other than the folks you have already named, have you
12 communicated with anyone else regarding this case?

13 A. No.

14 Q. What topics are you providing your opinion on in this
15 case?

16 A. Can I go back to the last question? I have family --
17 my family knows I'm in the case. I'm a very literal thinker so
18 when you said have you talked with anyone, of course some of my
19 family and colleagues know about it, but not the specifics of
20 my declaration.

21 Q. So they know that you're in a deposition right now,
22 but do they know what you're talking about?

23 A. They know it's about SB20.

24 Q. Okay. But did you discuss the specific contents of
25 your declaration with them?

1 A. No.

2 Q. So what topics are you providing your opinion on in
3 this case?

4 A. I'm providing my opinion on the hospitalization
5 requirement and the documentation of an intrauterine pregnancy
6 prior to chemical or medication abortion.

7 Q. Are you being paid for your participation in this
8 case?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How much are you being paid for your participation in
11 this case?

12 A. \$500 per hour.

13 Q. And about how many hours have you spent working on
14 this case so far?

15 A. A lot. I can't quantify -- I don't have -- I mean, I
16 have it written down elsewhere, but I haven't tallied it. But
17 a month ago I was asked and I know towards the end of July I
18 started working on a declaration and the declaration itself
19 took several hours so...

20 Q. Would you say that since you were contacted you have
21 spent several hours a week on this case?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would you say you have spent more than 10 hours a week
24 on this case?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Got it. Thank you. How did you prepare for today's
2 deposition?

3 MR. BOYLE: I'll just instruct you not to
4 discuss anything specifically that you said with your lawyer,
5 but you can answer generally.

6 THE WITNESS: Sure. It was -- sorry. And I'm
7 sorry -- is it -- how do I pronounce your name?

8 BY MS. SALVADOR:

9 Q. Sure. It's Anjali.

10 A. Anjali. And you asked me specifically for today?

11 Q. No. How did you prepare generally for today's
12 deposition, without revealing the contents of any conversation
13 you had with your attorneys?

14 A. Sure. So really reviewing my declaration was the
15 biggest thing and then reviewing the responses from the other
16 individuals who are witnesses. They have declarations too.

17 Q. Other than your attorneys, did you speak with anyone
18 about the substance of the deposition testimony you'll give
19 today?

20 A. I did not.

21 Q. You mentioned reviewing your own declaration and the
22 other declarations in this case. Did you review any other
23 documents to prepare for this deposition?

24 A. So I -- the resources that I used and then some of the
25 other literature in this area I reviewed.

1 Q. When you say some of the other literature in this
2 area, what do you mean by that?

3 A. Literature related to complications related to
4 pregnancy. I think all the ACOG guidelines I used are part of
5 my references, so they are above and -- I mean, I already said
6 I included those. I did get information about Planned
7 Parenthood South Atlantic and their policies, as well as some
8 of the other information they provided. For example, numbers
9 that they -- of abortions they do in their centers and things
10 like that.

11 Q. Thanks. Other than speaking with your attorneys and
12 reviewing the documents you mentioned, did you do anything else
13 to prepare for today's deposition?

14 A. I prayed.

15 Q. So you have -- you have already mentioned that you
16 prepared an expert declaration in this case, right?

17 A. I have.

18 Q. Okay.

19 MS. SALVADOR: So I am going to drop it into
20 the chat so that every one can access it. It's already been
21 premarked as an exhibit. I believe it is Exhibit-P.

22 - - -

23 (Document marked as Exhibit-P for
24 identification.)

25 - - -

1 BY MS. SALVADOR:

2 Q. So Dr. Bane, is this an accurate copy of the -- well,
3 first I should say, are you able to open the document that I
4 dropped into the chat?

5 A. Let me try because I have my own copy, so I wasn't
6 looking to do that. It's wanting me to save it first, so just
7 a sec.

8 Q. Sure.

9 (Pause.)

10 A. Yes, I have it now.

11 Q. And is this an accurate copy of the expert declaration
12 you submitted in this case?

13 A. Give me a minute.

14 Q. Sure.

15 (Pause.)

16 A. Yes, it's what I submitted.

17 Q. Thank you. And if it's easier, for your purposes, to
18 refer to your paper copy rather than the digital copy, that's
19 fine. We just needed to make sure that everyone on this
20 deposition is looking at the same document.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. Please describe the process of drafting this
23 declaration.

24 A. So really understanding what specifically I was being
25 asked to address was the first thing, which was the two things

1 I already mentioned regarding the IUP documentation requirement
2 and hospital requirement and reviewing the literature related
3 to that, including the maternal mortality report for North
4 Carolina that I thought was an important document related to
5 this.

6 Q. And did you write all of this declaration yourself?

7 A. One hundred percent.

8 Q. Have you read all of the documents cited in your
9 declaration in their entirety?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Other than your attorneys, did you work with anyone to
12 prepare your declaration?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Have you discussed the contents of your declaration
15 with anyone other than your attorneys?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you read the declarations that Dr. Farris
18 submitted in this case in their entirety?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you read the sources cited in Dr. Farris's
21 declarations?

22 A. I looked at them, but I can't say that I read all of
23 them.

24 Q. Got it. Thank you. And did you read the declarations
25 that Dr. Borass submitted in this case in their entirety?

1 A. Yes. And I'll add that I had those when I was writing
2 my declaration, so I should have included them as part of my
3 answer regarding how I prepared this.

4 Q. Got it. Thank you. And did you read the sources
5 cited in Dr. Borass's declarations?

6 A. I looked at them and -- so I can't say I read them
7 from front to back.

8 Q. So I'd like to turn now to your C.V., which is
9 Exhibit-A, attached to your declaration which we have already
10 pulled up and you have in front of you.

11 So is this C.V. current?

12 A. It's very current. It's not current as of today. I
13 have done two talks this week at a conference that aren't on
14 there, things like that.

15 Q. Got it. Thank you. And you graduated from -- with a
16 Bachelor of Science degree from Atlantic Christian College in
17 1987, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And now it's called Barton College, is that right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. So we'll get to the specifics of your career in a bit,
22 but am I correct that you also ended up working at Barton
23 College for a number of years?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. After you attended Barton College, you graduated from

1 the University of Illinois with a Master of Science in
2 kinesiology in 1989, is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then you received a Ph.D. in kinesiology from the
5 University of Illinois in 1995, is that right?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And you also got an M.D. from the same place in 1997,
8 is that right?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Did those two programs overlap?

11 A. So they are -- it was a 10-year program from the
12 standpoint of I went there in 1987 and I finished in 1997. So
13 from '87 to '89 I did my master's degree and then I was in a
14 M.D. Ph.D. medical scholars program. So I had a total of six
15 years of graduate work with my master's and my Ph.D. and four
16 years of medical school.

17 Q. Got it. Thank you. And you completed your residency
18 in obstetrics and gynecology at the East Carolina University
19 School of Medicine, right?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. And you completed that in 2001?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Are there any other educational credentials you have
24 that are not on your C.V.?

25 A. Not that are graduate level degrees and a master

1 level. I have certifications, but I think they're all on my
2 C.V.

3 Q. Okay. Thanks. So after you completed your residency,
4 did you work as an ob-gyn?

5 A. I did. I was in private practice at Greenville
6 Obstetrics and Gynecology in Greenville, North Carolina for
7 nine years.

8 Q. And what were your duties at Greenville?

9 A. So in my practice -- it was a private practice,
10 obstetrics and gynecology. We were part of a bigger group
11 called Physicians East, which was a multispecialty group. So I
12 did obstetrical care and gynecological care both in the office
13 and in the hospital taking call. I had medical students and
14 residents from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina
15 that were with me. I also had students from UNC Chapel Hill
16 who rotated with me.

17 Q. And in your declaration you state that you helped
18 women deliver over 1,000 babies and supervised midwives who
19 helped women deliver several thousand babies, is that right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Did all of those deliveries take place in hospitals?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What is your familiarity, if any, with midwives in
24 North Carolina delivering babies outside of hospitals?

25 A. I'm not familiar.

1 Q. And you mentioned your gynecological practice included
2 gynecological surgery, is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What type of gynecological surgery did you perform?

5 A. I performed D&Cs for miscarriage. I performed vaginal
6 and abdominal hysterectomies. I performed urogynecological
7 surgery. That was more limited. And I'm talking about
8 basically in the hospital. If a woman had an ectopic pregnancy
9 I would do laparoscopy for removing cysts, things like that.

10 Q. And just to clarify, you used a word -- did you say
11 urogynecological?

12 A. Sorry, uro. U-r-o. So it's bladder issues.

13 Q. Got it. Thank you. And did you ever perform any of
14 those procedures outside of the hospital?

15 A. Those procedures, no.

16 Q. Which of the procedures you mentioned, if any, did you
17 perform outside of the hospital?

18 A. None of those procedures outside of the hospital.

19 Q. So you never --

20 A. So -- excuse me. We did have as part of our hospital
21 a surgical center. So it would be like a same-day surgery
22 center. So I don't know if you're calling that -- that was
23 freestanding outpatient surgical center. So I didn't think of
24 that as a hospital. But I did not provide any of those
25 surgeries I mentioned in my outpatient clinic.

1 Q. Got it. Thank you. So you mentioned miscarriage D&Cs
2 as one of the procedures you performed, is that right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. What are the risks of miscarriage D&Cs?

5 A. So the risks are -- the biggest one acutely is
6 hemorrhage and infection. You can also have a uterine
7 perforation and that can lead to damage of adjacent organs
8 around the uterus, which are primarily bowel and bladder. And
9 you can also have death.

10 Q. Thank you for that. And we'll go into all of those a
11 little bit more later, but just kind of continuing with the
12 description of your work at Greenville. In your work at
13 Greenville did you ever prescribe contraception?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What types of contraception?

16 A. Hormonal and non-hormonal. So hormonal included birth
17 control pills or patch, Depo-Provera, which is an injection
18 shot, IUDs, tubal ligations, which are actually surgeries. I
19 would say those are the main things.

20 Q. And in your work at Greenville did you ever perform
21 abortions?

22 A. I did not perform induced abortions, which I'm using
23 that as the CDC's definition of an induced abortion.

24 Q. What is that definition?

25 A. So it's an intervention that is designed to -- whether

1 it's a suspected or a documented pregnancy, to not result in a
2 live birth.

3 Q. And so you referred to induced abortions as though
4 they were one type of abortion, is that right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. What are the other types of abortion?

7 A. So abortion is a term -- it's an umbrella term in
8 medicine and induced abortion is one type. We have what's
9 called a spontaneous abortion, commonly known as a miscarriage.
10 A threatened abortion would be when somebody comes into our
11 office, maybe they're cramping or bleeding and we do an
12 ultrasound and everything looks fine but they're possibly going
13 to miscarry. There's incomplete abortions, which would be a
14 woman who's in the middle of miscarrying. A complete abortion
15 is typically she's already miscarried. So those are examples
16 of terminology.

17 Q. So you described your practice as involving treatment
18 of spontaneous abortions, by your definition, is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And colloquially is that referred to as miscarriage
21 management?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So did miscarriage management ever involve providing
24 patients with medication?

25 A. We could give that as an option, but it was primarily

1 expectant management, meaning if she was bleeding and didn't
2 want to have a D&C, we had confirmed that she did not have a
3 viable pregnancy. But often times we would do surgery or we
4 would do expectant management.

5 Q. And that expectant management would sometimes involve
6 providing the patient with medication, is that right?

7 A. No. I'm sorry. Them on their own doing it. So you
8 can do medication management also.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. We can do that. We just didn't have many people that
11 wanted that option.

12 Q. Got it. But did you ever provide medication
13 management?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did that medication include Mifepristone and
16 Misoprostol?

17 A. Just Misoprostol.

18 Q. Got it. Thank you. Did you ever provide Misoprostol
19 to a patient outside of a hospital setting?

20 A. So if -- I can't recall a specific patient, but in
21 terms of being able to -- if she had a miscarriage and hadn't
22 passed it and wanted to have medical management, that was an
23 option she was given.

24 Q. And that was an option that she would be given in an
25 outpatient facility, is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you consider providing Misoprostol to a patient in
3 an outpatient facility to be safe?

4 A. Sorry, I heard a ding from somebody. Could you say it
5 again? Did I consider it to be safe like doing that?

6 Q. Yes. That's right.

7 A. Yeah. So if it was clinically indicated, I'm going to
8 do things that I think are safe and that the patient and I
9 align with in terms of her, you know, shared decisionmaking in
10 the process.

11 Q. And that would sometimes include providing Misoprostol
12 to a patient in an outpatient clinic as part of miscarriage
13 management, is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. To your knowledge did you ever provide Misoprostol to
16 a patient where there was fetal cardiac activity still present?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did your miscarriage management involve providing
19 aspiration procedures?

20 A. If you're calling an aspiration procedure a D&C, yes,
21 and that would have been at the hospital.

22 Q. Could you define a D&C, please?

23 A. So dilatation and curettage. But it -- in the past
24 that was equated with sharp curettage where you would scrape
25 the lining. And we know that that's associated with something

1 called Asherman's syndrome, which is adhesions. And so now I
2 think the term is still used but it's usually with suction
3 aspiration. But we still use the term D&C often.

4 Q. Have you ever performed a D&C, to your knowledge,
5 where there was fetal cardiac activity present?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did your miscarriage management involve any dilatation
8 and evacuation procedures or D&Es?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Just one second, I'm going back and forth in my
11 document just to make sure I didn't miss any questions. So you
12 mentioned -- we were talking about your work at Greenville and
13 your resume lists your work at Greenville and East Carolina
14 University separately, but you kind of described them as
15 together. So could you clarify that relationship, please?

16 A. Sure. So I was not an employee of East Carolina
17 University. We were clinical facility members if we taught
18 residents and had medical students on there. So I was employed
19 a hundred percent by Greenville Ob-Gyn and part of Physicians
20 East and I volunteered because I love to educate and had
21 students with me. I also taught some lectures -- not
22 regularly, but I did teach a two-week fourth year elective
23 called Residency 101 and that was volunteer service work also.

24 Q. Go it. So in our discussion of your practice so far,
25 is there anything different about your East Carolina practice

1 versus your Greenville practice?

2 A. I don't consider that I ever had an East Carolina
3 practice. If it comes across as that in my C.V. I should
4 change it. But no, I was never employed as -- I guess when I
5 was a resident they paid me, but once I graduated from
6 residency I was at Greenville Ob-Gyn.

7 Q. Got it. And in your teaching, did you ever teach your
8 students about abortion?

9 A. No. I mean, I did do lectures on that, I guess I
10 would say.

11 Q. Understood. So we have generally been talking about
12 your ob-gyn practice from 2001 to 2010, is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. And is there any part of that ob-gyn work --
15 or, I'm sorry. Have we discussed basically everything you did
16 in your ob-gyn work?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So what else did you do as part of that ob-gyn work?

19 A. So I took call. I delivered babies. I did vaginally
20 and vacuum-assisted. I did c-sections and the full gamut of
21 what an obstetrician who is covering a hospital would do.
22 Consults all across the hospital. In my practice a big part of
23 my gyn practice was yearly physicals with women. And I did
24 prenatal care.

25 Q. And in your medical practice, have you ever prescribed

1 medication off label?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. In what circumstances?

4 A. When women are menopausal and having hot flashes, for
5 example, SSRIs, which are antidepressants, have been shown to
6 help with hot flashes, for example. So I may prescribe one of
7 those.

8 Q. Did you consider that safe?

9 A. Yeah. Yes, I did.

10 Q. Why did you consider that to be safe?

11 A. I think that there were several studies that showed
12 that it was effective. The potential side effects of
13 prescribing it were minimal. It was well studied in women --
14 it is a drug that has been well studied and so it's been
15 commonly used. Like, for example, Prozac, let's say, was one
16 of them that we would use. So I felt comfortable that there
17 was not a harm that I was causing. And I also knew that if she
18 didn't like it, we could stop it.

19 Q. Got it. Thank you. And we have already discussed
20 Misoprostol. Have you ever prescribed Mifepristone or Mifeprex
21 to a patient?

22 A. I have not.

23 Q. Have you ever provided an abortion?

24 A. I have never performed an induced abortion, no.

25 Q. You state in your declaration that while you were in

1 private practice you cared for preborn children with
2 life-limiting conditions, is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Could you describe what you mean by that?

5 A. So they are -- typically -- I mean, so a fetus is
6 after eight weeks. So usually the diagnoses aren't made when
7 they're embryos. And so they have a diagnoses that we know
8 that if the normal age limit for men and women is in the 70s
9 and 80s, that they have a condition that has been diagnosed
10 that the likelihood of them surviving to 70 or 80 is not
11 expected. So that would be a life-limiting condition.

12 Q. And how did you treat -- how did you treat your
13 patients in that situation?

14 A. A lot of love. It was hard because they -- you know,
15 it's a tragedy when you expect to have a healthy child and
16 you're told that. So we would refer them to maternal-fetal
17 medicine because maternal-fetal medicine works with high-risk
18 pregnancies. And then depending on the situation they may come
19 back to our practice and we provide their prenatal care or
20 there may be a transfer of care.

21 Q. And a transfer of care for what?

22 A. Well, usually for the maternal-fetal medicine
23 specialist to take over the care of them, whether it's -- there
24 was going to be a delivery or if the patient had decided that
25 they wanted to have an induced abortion, they would provide

1 that.

2 Q. And would you ever refer those patients directly for
3 an induced abortion?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Have you ever performed a previability induction on a
6 pregnant patient?

7 A. Can you define previability?

8 Q. Sure. How would you define viability?

9 A. Well, traditionally it is able to survive outside the
10 mother. And that's changed over time of course because our
11 understanding of how to care for premature babies is better.
12 So I assume you're asking babies that -- maybe I shouldn't
13 assume -- but that are too young to survive if they were born
14 at the time of the induction.

15 Q. That's right. Have you ever performed an induction on
16 a pregnant patient at the stage where their fetus was not
17 developed enough to survive outside the womb?

18 A. Yes, I have.

19 Q. About how many times?

20 A. Lots and lots. Residency in four years because we
21 were a Level 1 hospital where we had a lot of transfers that
22 came in -- excuse me. I'm sorry. I have a reminder coming up
23 that was loud. We had a lot of patients transferred to us that
24 had, for example, preterm premature rupture of membranes. And
25 -- or other things that caused us to have to do a premature

1 separation of the maternal and fetal patient. So that was four
2 years and then I had nine years in private practice. So, you
3 know, greater than a hundred.

4 Q. Got it. Thank you. And did you consider those
5 inductions to be abortions?

6 A. No, not induced abortions.

7 Q. So you referred to preterm premature rupture of
8 membranes or pprom. What other conditions would lead you to
9 perform an induction in these circumstances?

10 A. That would probably be the most common. Really it
11 would be situations in which typically the mom is so sick that
12 if we do not do an induction and separate our maternal and
13 fetal patient, both patients would die. So, you know, it would
14 be any indication that the mom was so sick. And occasionally
15 it's a fetal indication, but it's usually the mother.

16 Q. Did you ever recommend to one of your patients that
17 they have an induction before the fetus could survive outside
18 the woman?

19 A. Yeah, I had a lot of hard conversations about that.

20 Q. Would you have recommended an induction to, for
21 example, a patient with gestational diabetes at risk of going
22 blind?

23 A. I would need more clinical context than a hypothetical
24 like that.

25 Q. Would you wait until the patient was dying before you

1 recommended such an induction?

2 MR. BOYLE: Objection. You can answer.

3 THE WITNESS: Did you say you can answer?

4 MR. BOYLE: Yes, you can answer.

5 THE WITNESS: Okay. Would you repeat the
6 question, please.

7 BY MS. SALVADOR:

8 Q. Sure. Would you wait until the patient -- would you
9 recommend waiting until the patient -- sorry. Let me start
10 over. Would you wait until the patient was dying to recommend
11 such an induction?

12 MR. BOYLE: Objection. You can answer.

13 THE WITNESS: So I just want to kind of pull
14 back for a second and clarify. So an induced abortion has the
15 intention of not having a live birth. So when I would
16 recommend an induction in these cases, my intention was
17 hopefully to have a live mom for sure and a live baby. And so
18 there were times, for example, if she's what's called
19 perivable, she's near where maybe the baby did have a fighting
20 chance and her risks are small at that point that we could do
21 expectant management. So, for example, with pprom, one of the
22 -- ACOG'S, you know, practice bulletin on pprom says expectant
23 management. And so I'm trained to be able to watch for signs
24 of infection in the mom and daily, you know, go see her and
25 multiple times a day do vital signs and at the very beginning

1 of the process say to her, you know -- let's say she's 22 weeks
2 is we have a couple different options here and one of them is
3 to go ahead and deliver you. And -- well, there are 22 weekers
4 that have survived. So let me say 20 weeks. And say to her
5 that we can wait. We can do expectant management and if we do
6 that we're going to have to monitor you very closely and if
7 there's a sign that you have what's called chorioamnionitis I'm
8 going to recommend induction.

9 Q. And you said -- please repeat that term,
10 chorioamnionitis?

11 A. Chorioamnionitis. So it's an infection of the
12 amniotic fluid.

13 Q. Would you recommend -- would you ever recommend to a
14 patient waiting until sepsis develops to have an induction?

15 A. Heck, no.

16 Q. Between when you finished residency in 2010, did you
17 work as an ob-gyn anywhere other than Greenville and then its
18 associated work at East Carolina University?

19 A. No.

20 Q. After you stopped working at Greenville, where did you
21 work next?

22 A. So I worked at Barton College, which was Atlantic
23 Christian when I was there, and I have been there since 2010 --
24 well, I was an adjunct, but full time starting in 2011, until
25 this summer and I'm no longer there.

1 Q. Could you generally describe your role at Barton,
2 please?

3 A. Sure. I was initially hired as an associate professor
4 of Allied Health and Sports Studies, although I think our
5 department had a different name back then. But I was an
6 associate professor. So my Ph.D. is in kinesiology, which is
7 exercise science. And so I taught classes ranging from anatomy
8 and physiology to exercise physiology, exercise psychology.
9 After I believe my first year I was asked to run the honors
10 program. So I taught in the honors program and had an
11 administrative role there and continued to teach, but as time
12 went on I taught less and had more administrative
13 responsibilities, including dean of graduate and professional
14 studies. And then the last few years I have been the director
15 of a partnership with Area L AHEC, at Barton College.

16 Q. I'm sorry, what is that term, Area L AHEC?

17 A. AHEC. So AHEC is a system within -- actually, it's a
18 national organization, but each state -- I believe most of the
19 states have AHECs. And they work on workforce development,
20 retention and diversity. And so we ran a program on campus
21 with college students trying to increase health careers
22 awareness, but also diversity within the healthcare system.

23 Q. And did your work at Barton also involve practicing as
24 a women's health physician at Lee Student Health Center?

25 A. Yes, it did. I was in there a few half days a week

1 when I first started. I think it was the first couple years.
2 But then as my administrative duties increased I wasn't able to
3 do direct patient care in there and I served more on a
4 consultative role.

5 Q. Did you prescribe contraception to your patients at
6 Lee Student Health Center?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you ever talk to any of them -- I'm sorry. Were
9 any students you treated at Lee Student Health Center pregnant?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Would your treatment of students ever involve talking
12 to them about abortion?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Describe those conversations about abortion, please.

15 A. Yeah. So I basically want women to be empowered with
16 information before they make a decision of such massive
17 consequence. And so it would really be helping them understand
18 their legal choices in the State of North Carolina. Some of
19 our students are from out of state. And so helping them
20 understand they had the option to give birth, to give birth and
21 parent, to give birth and place the child for adoption, or to
22 give permission to a healthcare practitioner to do an abortion.
23 We have a lot of student athletes at our campus. Probably
24 close to 70 percent of our students are athletes, so there was
25 always conversation typically about how it would impact their

1 play and scholarships and things like that. So I really just
2 wanted them to be really well informed before they made a
3 decision.

4 Q. Did any of the students who you spoke with about their
5 decision ever express to you a desire to have an abortion?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And would you support them in that decision?

8 A. You would have to define support them.

9 Q. Sure. Would you ever affirm their decision to have an
10 abortion?

11 MR. BOYLE: Objection. Object to form. You
12 can answer.

13 THE WITNESS: So what I would talk to them
14 about are -- well, risks -- I would not refer them for an
15 abortion because for me the direct and intentional killing of
16 another human being is not part of healthcare and so I didn't
17 want to contribute to harming one of my patients because I have
18 -- when she's in front of me, I have two patients in front of
19 me. So I wouldn't refer them. What I would do is help them
20 understand the risks, benefits and alternatives.

21 BY MS. SALVADOR:

22 Q. And -- I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you.

23 A. It's okay.

24 Q. So you said risks, benefits and alternatives. What
25 would the benefits be?

1 A. Of which choice?

2 Q. Of an abortion.

3 A. Oh, risk, benefit. Basically that nobody would have
4 to know they're pregnant typically and that they would likely
5 be able to compete in their sport.

6 Q. Why did you leave Barton?

7 A. I left Barton -- probably should have left two years
8 ago because I really felt like God was calling me to work more
9 with women with unplanned pregnancy. I have been a volunteer
10 for years at Pregnancy Centers and often times when you're a
11 volunteer medical director you are reading all the ultrasounds.
12 But we had -- we needed -- we didn't have a nurse and we had
13 trouble finding one a few years back and I said well, I can do
14 ultrasound. I will go in there and do it. And I just love
15 working with these women. Every woman now has an unplanned
16 pregnancy and I just have a heart for women. And I want them
17 to be able to -- I want to be able to address the barriers for
18 why women feel like the best choice in front of them is ending
19 the life of their own child. I think that it's sad that we
20 have the best of our legal and medical minds in our country and
21 that's the best we can offer for women for equality is to end
22 the life of their children and I just think that's wrong. So I
23 wanted to work full time caring for women in these situations
24 and there wasn't time to do my job at Barton and that.

25 Q. Understood. Thank you. So before we get to your

1 Pregnancy Center work I want to talk a little bit about your
2 professional associations.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. Are you currently a member of the American College of
5 Obstetricians and Gynecologists?

6 A. I am currently not.

7 Q. Okay. And we'll call that ACOG, is that okay?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were you ever a member of ACOG?

10 A. Yeah, for a long time.

11 Q. And do you remember what years?

12 A. I believe when I first started private practice, 2001.

13 I might have been a member during residency, but I'm not a
14 hundred percent sure of that. Because if so, I think they
15 would have paid for a membership. And so I started in 2001 and
16 I stopped my membership a year or two ago.

17 Q. Got it. I think your C.V. says 1997 and 2021. Does
18 that sound right?

19 A. It does.

20 Q. So why are you no longer a member of ACOG?

21 A. So I have got -- I think ACOG does great work, but I
22 really philosophically disagree in the abortion area with
23 induced abortion. And I feel like it was an organization that
24 did not represent so many of us who really feel like the direct
25 and intentional killing of our fetal patient, there's no

1 purpose in medicine for that. And I -- ACOG has I think it's
2 eight percent of our dues that go towards advocacy work. I
3 will say they do some great advocacy work, but I couldn't --
4 they wouldn't allow us to not contribute that part. And so I
5 just in good faith, I didn't want to know that some of my dues
6 were going to advocate for induced abortion.

7 Q. Did anyone suggest to you that you end your ACOG
8 membership?

9 A. No.

10 Q. ACOG members aren't required to hold any particular
11 view of abortion as a precondition of membership, are they?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And ACOG'S membership includes individuals who are
14 opposed to abortion, is that right?

15 MR. BOYLE: Objection.

16 THE WITNESS: I know lots of colleagues that
17 are members of ACOG that are pro-life and pro-choice, so I --
18 there are members of both in ACOG.

19 BY MS. SALVADOR:

20 Q. And you cite ACOG bulletins on early pregnancy loss
21 and tubal ectopic pregnancy in your declaration, is that right?

22 A. Do.

23 Q. And you also cite an ACOG committee opinion on methods
24 of estimating pregnancy due date, is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So you believe that ACOG is a reliable source of
2 information?

3 A. So, as I said when you asked me the question about why
4 I left, ACOG does a lot of great work. I just disagree that
5 they -- their position on abortion access, their abortion
6 policy. And so there's a part of ACOG that I don't agree with
7 and for a while I considered leaving and it was just in the
8 last few years I felt like -- particularly when they wouldn't
9 allow me to not contribute to their advocacy work.

10 MR. BOYLE: I just ask -- we have been going
11 for about an hour. When you get a chance, can we take a break,
12 please?

13 MS. SALVADOR: Sure. We have just got one or
14 two more questions on ACOG and then we can break after that, if
15 that works.

16 BY MS. SALVADOR:

17 Q. So would you find ACOG bulletins on abortion to be
18 reliable?

19 A. Well, I disagree with them and so it is -- a lot of it
20 is ACOG'S opinion, without even caring that so many of us, the
21 majority of -- based on studies that have been cited, you know,
22 don't do induced abortions. So they advocate for laws that I
23 don't agree with. And so --

24 Q. But is it your position that the medical information
25 in ACOG'S bulletins on abortion is unreliable?

1 A. I don't think I can answer that without looking at
2 them. Like what medical information you're asking me to answer
3 about.

4 Q. Okay. Understood.

5 MS. SALVADOR: We can take a break now. Would
6 10 minutes work?

7 THE WITNESS: Sure.

8 MS. SALVADOR: Okay. Why don't we go off the
9 record.

10 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Thank you. We are now
11 going off the video record. The time is 3:07 p.m.

12 (A break was taken.)

13 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: We are now back on the
14 video record. The time is 3:17 p.m.

15 BY MS. SALVADOR:

16 Q. Thank you, Dr. Bane. So before we go back to your
17 professional associations, I wanted to ask you whether John
18 Thorpe reviewed a draft of your declaration?

19 A. No, he did not.

20 Q. Okay. Thank you. So going back to your professional
21 associations, you're a member of the American Association of
22 Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And I'll refer to that as AAPLOG, if that's all right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How long have you been a member of AAPLOG?

2 A. I think two years maybe.

3 Q. You currently serve on their board, is that right?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. Do you have a title other than board member?

6 A. I just got a title. I am the team leader for
7 education advocacy. The CEO, Donna Harrison, stepped down as
8 the CEO and Dr. Christina Francis became the CEO. So I took
9 her place.

10 Q. So you took her place as CEO?

11 A. No. No. Sorry. As the team leader on the board
12 for education and advocacy.

13 Q. Understood. So what does your role as team leader for
14 education and advocacy entail?

15 A. Well, it's brand new so my understanding -- I haven't
16 really had a board meeting in which I have lead it yet, but
17 it's really going to be related to both patient and
18 practitioner educational material that looks at the medical
19 evidence and advocacy work in terms of really equipping
20 practitioners who have a pro-life perspective to be able to
21 communicate their -- why they have that perspective.

22 Q. Would it be fair to say that communicating their
23 perspective is advocacy?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you consider yourself a pro-life advocate?

1 A. I stand up for pro-life values. I stand up for both
2 my maternal and my fetal patients. So that would be my
3 definition of being an advocate for them. I also stand up for
4 medical students and residents and healthcare practitioners of
5 all types who acknowledge and want to have health and wholeness
6 for both their maternal and fetal patients.

7 Q. So you said you were new to this -- I'm sorry, I
8 forget exactly what it's called, but the education and
9 advocacy --

10 A. Team leader.

11 Q. -- team leader role. But you have been on the board
12 of AAPLOG for sometime, is that correct?

13 A. For a year.

14 Q. What do your duties entail as a board member?

15 A. So -- what do my duties entail? So in terms of
16 oversight -- things that I have had to do. So I have attended
17 one face-to-face meeting and two virtual meetings. So
18 basically going over the strategic plan, which was already made
19 when I was there, but reviewing that. Updating the strategic
20 plan. So more a visionary picture for the organization.
21 Fiscal responsibility. We are a nonprofit and we do not have a
22 lobbying arm to what we do in terms of -- I think it's called a
23 C4 maybe. I don't know that for sure. So making sure that we
24 are educating, but not lobbying. So, so far I would say big
25 decisions that are strategic are what our role is in our

1 governance.

2 Q. What's your understanding of AAPLOG's position on
3 abortion?

4 A. You said AAPLOG, right?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. That induced abortion as defined earlier, that it --
7 it is not healthcare and it is not -- the direct intentional
8 killing of one of our patients we should never do.

9 Q. Have you attended any expert witness trainings
10 conducted by AAPLOG?

11 A. Yes, I did attend one.

12 Q. Could you generally describe what that training
13 entailed?

14 A. Yes. A communications -- it was one day -- I think it
15 was one day. It might have been -- no, it was one day. A
16 communications expert spent the morning just kind of talking to
17 us regarding interviews with reporters and kind of what that
18 world is like. And then the other half of the day was more
19 about being an expert witness as I'm being now.

20 Q. And what training or do you remember what the training
21 covered on being an expert witness like you're doing right now?

22 A. So they had some lawyers that came and just kind of
23 talked about depositions and we did a -- each of us did an
24 individual short mock deposition. We ran out of time, to be
25 honest, so I didn't really do much with that part.

1 Q. Well, now you're getting the real thing.

2 A. Amen.

3 Q. And you were a committee member of the Preborn to End
4 of Life Advisory Committee for the Diocese of Raleigh from 2013
5 to 2020, is that correct?

6 A. I was a member and we had one meeting during that
7 time.

8 Q. Got it. So it sounds like not much. But what did
9 your duties as a committee member entail?

10 A. Basically if the diocese needed direction on life
11 issues, then they would come to us.

12 Q. Did you do any work relating to abortion as part of
13 that committee?

14 A. Well, the one meeting we had, which was my first and
15 only time going to Raleigh for it, I honestly can't remember
16 the content. I do know the woman who is in charge of their
17 Right to Life program was there, but I don't recall that it was
18 specific to abortion.

19 Q. Got it. Thank you. Have you ever had a complaint
20 made against you by a patient?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Could you describe that, please?

23 A. I had a patient that she was in our practice. She had
24 twins. I had not met her until I was on call and she came in
25 and -- when I took over call she was in labor and her twins

1 were vertex. Vertex. So you can do a vaginal delivery. And
2 the first baby was delivered and he did fine, but as soon as he
3 was delivered the second baby had a big deceleration, which I
4 was worried about. But then that baby recovered. And I had --
5 so I had taken off the fetal heart rate monitors because I was
6 using ultrasound to make sure the second baby didn't change
7 positions. And so I manually palpated her abdomen. I was
8 looking at the heart rate monitor and everything and that baby
9 was born and he was very flaccid and had to be resuscitated
10 and he died four days later. And looking back at it I did not
11 recognize that that baby was having a hard time. I thought it
12 was what are called early decelerations. But looking closely
13 at it they were called late decelerations. And so I should
14 have done an emergency c-section.

15 Q. And what was the resolution of that complaint?

16 A. Am I allowed to share -- I thought that was -- I mean,
17 I'm happy to say we settled, but I don't know if I'm allowed to
18 share more than that. The hospital settled and then my
19 practice settled.

20 Q. Got it. And have you ever had a complaint made
21 against you by a student?

22 A. By a student? Well, they do evaluations at the end of
23 the year and not all of them are, you know -- you know, some
24 students don't like me, but not from the context of what you're
25 talking about medically. So I'll have to say no, other than

1 what I have already said.

2 Q. Understood. Thank you.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Have you ever had a complaint made against you, an
5 official complaint made against you by a colleague?

6 A. So I would say -- so an official complaint like with
7 human resources?

8 Q. Sure.

9 A. No.

10 Q. Have you ever had a -- what sort of, if any,
11 unofficial complaints have you had made against you by
12 colleagues?

13 A. I had a time this year at the college where I -- when
14 the Dobbs decision happened last June I wanted to do a talk on
15 campus so that the students could understand the new decision,
16 how it impacted them, because we have -- as I said before, 60
17 to 70 percent of our students are athletes. I wanted to make
18 sure they understood the NCAA policy as it relates to unplanned
19 pregnancy. And eight of my colleagues at Barton campus wrote
20 the administration and did not want me to present.

21 Q. Why did they not want you to present?

22 A. Sorry. I can answer. In their letter that they wrote
23 they said it's because they felt like we -- they needed -- I
24 would bring my pro-life perspective and not -- it needed to be
25 balanced with someone who is pro-choice.

1 Q. Did you end up giving that talk?

2 A. I did give the talk. Instead of in October, I gave it
3 in April.

4 Q. Did you end up -- did you end up giving your pro-life
5 perspective to that talk?

6 A. No. As a matter of fact, my daughter was in
7 attendance and she said if I didn't know you I wouldn't have
8 known whether you were pro-life or pro-choice.

9 Q. Have you ever had a malpractice claim filed against
10 you?

11 A. The one that I told you about earlier I have. When I
12 was a chief resident, there was a claim that was filed and I
13 was included on it. But right before the jury was being
14 selected the case was dropped. And I believe that's the only
15 one.

16 Q. And what was that dropped case regarding?

17 A. A baby that had cerebral palsy. You know, I don't
18 know if it was cerebral palsy. But had some chronic medical
19 illnesses and they -- I think they felt like we didn't do the
20 c-section maybe fast enough, but it turned out that they
21 dropped the case.

22 Q. Have you ever been disciplined by a licensing board?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Have you ever been subject to disciplinary proceedings
25 by an employer?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Got it. Thank you. So we're going to switch gears a
3 little bit.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Do you believe that national data underestimates
6 complications from abortions?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are you aware that the CDC has obtained data on
9 abortion mortality from all 50 states?

10 A. I'm aware that there is voluntary reporting from the
11 states.

12 Q. Other than voluntary reporting from the states, do you
13 know what sources the CDC relies on to identify
14 abortion-related deaths?

15 A. I don't know a complete list. I could go to the CDC
16 and look it up, but not off the top of my head.

17 Q. Are you aware that they rely on state vital records?

18 A. I am aware that they rely on state vital records and
19 that those vital records are also voluntary.

20 Q. Are you aware that the CDC relies on individual case
21 reports by public health agencies?

22 A. Yes, I'm aware that public health agencies do report
23 information.

24 Q. Are you aware that the CDC relies on data from state
25 maternal mortality review committees?

1 A. I'm aware that some states have those committees. I
2 don't believe all states have those committees.

3 Q. Are you aware though that for where those committees
4 exist, that the CDC relies on their data?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Are you aware that the CDC relies on reports by
7 private citizens?

8 A. I'm not aware of the complete list, no.

9 Q. Are you aware that the CDC relies on media reports to
10 identify abortion-related deaths?

11 A. Did you say media?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. No, I'm not aware of that.

14 Q. Are you aware that for each death that is possibly
15 related to abortion the CDC requests clinical records and
16 autopsy reports?

17 A. I'm not aware of all the sources in which the CDC
18 uses. What I will say is I'm aware that none of it is
19 mandatory. And -- sorry.

20 Q. Sorry. Go ahead.

21 A. And that there is -- there are a lot of holes in terms
22 of the fact that we don't have to have -- we don't have
23 mandatory abortion reporting data.

24 Q. So you were not aware that the CDC requests clinical
25 records and autopsy reports for deaths possibly related to

1 abortion, correct?

2 MR. BOYLE: Objection. You can answer.

3 THE WITNESS: Once again, I may have read it,
4 but I don't have that list in my head of everything. So I
5 can't truthfully say to you all the places I'm aware that they
6 get their data.

7 BY MS. SALVADOR:

8 Q. And are you aware that where the CDC reviews autopsy
9 reports two epidemiologists review these reports to determine
10 the cause of death and whether it was abortion related?

11 A. I'll repeat that I'm not aware of all the sources off
12 the top of my head that the CDC uses.

13 Q. Is it your understanding that carrying a pregnancy to
14 term carries more medical risk for the patient -- for the
15 pregnant patient than having an abortion?

16 A. Could you say that one more time? You switched on me
17 and --

18 Q. Sure. Is it your understanding that carrying a
19 pregnancy to term carries more medical risk for the pregnant
20 patient than having an abortion?

21 A. I disagree with that.

22 Q. So you disagree that carrying a pregnancy to term has
23 more risk for the pregnant patient than having an abortion?

24 A. Yes. Because we have inaccurate data and so you --
25 that leads to inaccurate conclusions. The only -- when we

1 compare those two, it's very difficult when you have a data
2 collection system that basically live birth is the only thing
3 we know for sure because everybody has a birth certificate.
4 And when you look at maternal mortality it is, you know, number
5 of deaths per hundred thousand live births. And pregnancies
6 don't just end in live births. You know, as a matter of fact
7 in our country about 65 percent of pregnancies end in live
8 birth. About 35 percent don't. And if you look at black
9 women, almost half of their pregnancies don't. So you have a
10 statistic in which the denominator -- we have 35 to 50 percent
11 that we're not even accounting for the fact that those
12 pregnancies can end in abortion, induced abortion, or natural
13 losses or ectopics or hydatiform moles. So yeah, there are
14 great limitations in how we collect our data.

15 Q. Do you accept that abortion is safer than child birth
16 for most abortion patients?

17 A. I cannot make that conclusion given the data we have.

18 Q. Are there circumstances in which you would say that
19 abortion is riskier than a pregnancy and child birth?

20 A. Could you repeat that for me, Anjali?

21 Q. Sure.

22 MS. SALVADOR: Could I actually ask the court
23 reporter to read that back so the words are exactly the
24 same. - - -

25 (The requested portion was read back by the

1 reporter.)

2 - - -

3 THE WITNESS: So that's a hypothetical
4 question. So it's difficult to know because circumstances
5 often change. We know that abortion -- you know, the greatest
6 predictors of complications and death from abortion -- induced
7 abortion is gestational age. So it's very difficult to make a
8 comparison of a pregnancy to an abortion.

9 BY MS. SALVADOR:

10 Q. Is it true that some people who get abortions would
11 have experienced pregnancy complications if they had stayed
12 pregnant?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. The likelihood of pregnancy-related death is higher
15 for women with certain preexisting conditions, isn't that
16 right?

17 A. The likelihood of pregnancy-related deaths is higher
18 for some women with preexisting conditions?

19 Q. Yes. Is that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. What sorts of conditions would increase the risk of
22 death during pregnancy?

23 A. So certain types of cardiac issues. Women who have
24 kidney failure are, you know, some of the worst mortality
25 risks. You know, uncontrolled diabetes. When a woman has it

1 uncontrolled during pregnancy, uncontrolled hypertension. So
2 various chronic diseases do make the pregnancy more difficult,
3 which is why we have a subspecialty of maternal-fetal medicine
4 and designed to care for those women and if we do our job well,
5 we really can hopefully reduce those risks for her.

6 Q. And at least some of women with those preexisting
7 conditions you have just named obtain abortions, is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So in your declaration -- and I'll point you to --
10 it's the bottom of page 12.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Sorry, I'm going there myself. You write it is
13 possible that the higher rate of induced abortion and later
14 abortions in black women account for a portion of the racial
15 disparity noted in pregnancy mortality, is that right?

16 A. You said page -- is it page or paragraph? I'm doing
17 the hard copy here.

18 Q. Okay. Sorry. It's paragraph 25. It's the end of
19 paragraph 25. And if anyone is looking at the page numbers,
20 it's the bottom of page 12 of the PDF.

21 A. Just give me a second.

22 Q. Sure.

23 (Pause.)

24 A. Okay. I'm there.

25 Q. Okay. So the declaration says it is possible that the

1 higher rate of induced abortion and later abortions in black
2 women account for a portion of the racial disparity noted in
3 pregnancy mortality and this level actually be protected for
4 black women.

5 Did I read that sentence correctly?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But you don't cite any sources for that statement, is
8 that right?

9 A. No. It's based on the full paragraph in terms of the
10 sentences before in that we know that black women have more
11 abortions, induced abortions than white women. We also know
12 their mortality rate is higher.

13 Q. When you say the mortality rate, you mean that we know
14 that their maternal mortality is higher, is that right?

15 A. Yes. Well, the data suggests that, yeah, it is higher
16 and that they have more second trimester abortions, later
17 abortions, which we know have greater risk for complication and
18 death. So the answer for woman -- black women to addressing
19 maternal mortality is not more abortion. That's what I'm
20 saying in this. It's really that we have to get to the root
21 causes of why black women die and they're multifactorial,
22 including chronic diseases, which we have talked about, but
23 also health disparities that happen in their treatment of care.
24 They're not often heard the same. And it also is access to
25 early prenatal care, transportation issues, education about

1 warning signs. So my point in this paragraph is that the
2 answer to help women who are black or white and have chronic
3 disease is not to destroy their children. It's get to the root
4 cause of why they're dying.

5 Q. But you're not aware of a source that draws a causal
6 link between abortion-related mortality and the relatively high
7 black maternal mortality rate, are you?

8 A. Not off the top of my head, no.

9 Q. So in your declaration -- and this is also in
10 paragraph 25.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. You state that the risk of death from induced abortion
13 increases as gestation progresses, is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you cite a study by Bartlett, et al. for the idea
16 that women whose abortions were performed in the second
17 trimester were significantly more likely to die of
18 abortion-related causes, is that right?

19 A. Yes, I do cite that study.

20 Q. Do you recall that that study found that for the time
21 period it was discussing the overall death rate for women
22 obtaining legally-induced abortion was 0.7 per 100,000 legal
23 induced abortions?

24 A. I would need to look at the study. I don't recall
25 those exact numbers.

1 Q. Sure. One second.

2 A. Can I -- I have a copy of it. Is it --

3 Q. Sure. You can use your copy.

4 MS. SALVADOR: And then I am dropping the
5 digital copy into the chat right now. So could we please have
6 that marked as an exhibit.

7 - - -

8 (Document marked as Exhibit-Q for
9 identification.)

10 - - -

11 BY MS. SALVADOR:

12 Q. Dr. Bane, I'm going to ask you to pull up the digital
13 copy too and just confirm that it's the same as what you're
14 looking at.

15 A. Okay. Sorry, it's making me save it again.

16 Q. That's fine.

17 (Pause.)

18 A. Okay. It's the same.

19 Q. Okay. Great. And so this document is the Bartlett
20 study that we were discussing, is that correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. So I'm going to point you to the first page, left hand
23 column where it says results.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. The first sentence there is during 1988 to 1997 the

1 overall death rate for women obtaining legally induced
2 abortions was 0.7 per 100,000 legally-induced abortions.

3 Did I read that correctly?

4 A. You did.

5 Q. So do you recall that CDC data states that in 2021 the
6 maternal mortality rate was 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live
7 births?

8 A. No, I don't recall the exact number.

9 Q. One second, please.

10 MS. SALVADOR: So I'm dropping a document into
11 the chat entitled 2021 Maternal Mortality Rates as the file
12 name. Could we please have that marked as an exhibit and, Dr.
13 Bane, could you please open it?

14 THE WITNESS: Sure.

15 - - -

16 (Document marked as Exhibit-R for
17 identification.)

18 - - -

19 BY MS. SALVADOR:

20 Q. Just tell me when you have it open.

21 A. Just a sec. Let me try again.

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. If that doesn't work for you I can try to screen share
25 it.

1 A. No. I actually got it and I actually think I have
2 that same document.

3 Q. Okay. I just have a couple of questions about it, so
4 if you have to find it, it might be easier to use the digital
5 copy.

6 A. Okay. That will be fine.

7 Q. So is this document we're looking at the CDC data for
8 maternal mortality rates in the United States for 2021?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So if you go to the second full paragraph on the first
11 page.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. Do you see that it says that the maternal mortality
14 rate for 2021 was 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births?

15 A. I do see that.

16 Q. And then do you see that at the very beginning of the
17 next paragraph it says in 2021 the maternal mortality rate for
18 non-Hispanic, black, in parentheses, subsequently black women
19 was 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And in your declaration you also discuss a North
22 Carolina Maternal Mortality Review report from 2021, is that
23 correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you recall that the report states that in 2016 the

1 maternal mortality rate was 20.7 deaths per 100,000 live
2 births?

3 A. I don't recall that number, but I have easy access to
4 that document if you would like me to get it out.

5 Q. Sure.

6 MS. SALVADOR: I'm going to drop that into the
7 chat as well. So if we could please have it marked as an
8 exhibit.

9 - - -

10 (Document marked as Exhibit-S for
11 identification.)

12 - - -

13 THE WITNESS: I have it.

14 BY MS. SALVADOR:

15 Q. And then, Dr. Bane, could you just please verify that
16 the digital copy is the same as what you're looking at?

17 A. Okay. Let me look. Yes, it's the same.

18 Q. Okay. Thank you. Could you go to page 12 of that
19 report, please.

20 A. Sure.

21 Q. So do you see on page 12 there is a paragraph that
22 starts with pregnancy-related death ratios from 2007 to 2016.
23 And the end of it says that the pregnancy-related death ratio
24 is 20.7 deaths in 2016, is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Are you familiar with the CDC's abortion surveillance
2 data from 2020?

3 A. I looked at it, but I don't have it on the tip of my
4 tongue. I would need to see it also.

5 Q. Got it. Thank you.

6 MS. SALVADOR: So I am dropping that into the
7 chat as well. It's the file name entitled CDC Abortion
8 Surveillance. If we could please have that marked as an
9 exhibit and then, Dr. Bane, just let me know when you have it
10 opened.

11 - - -

12 (Document marked as Exhibit-T for
13 identification.)

14 - - -

15 THE WITNESS: Okay. I have it open.

16 BY MS. SALVADOR:

17 Q. Okay. And do you recognize this document as CDC
18 Abortion Surveillance Data from 2020?

19 A. I have not seen this exact document. I have seen a
20 summary. So I -- I --

21 Q. Okay. If you could go to the title page. Do you see
22 there that it has the CDC logo at the bottom and then at the
23 top it says Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MMWR,
24 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that this document
2 is -- or sorry. Do you have any reason to believe that this
3 document is not the CDC abortion surveillance data from 2020?

4 A. No, I have no reason to believe that.

5 Q. So if you could please go to page 27 of the document.

6 A. All right.

7 Q. Let me know when you're there.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. Do you see that it is -- it's a table labeled table
10 15, number of deaths in case fatality rate for abortion-related
11 deaths reported to CDC by type of abortion, United States, 1973
12 to 2019?

13 A. Yes, I see that table.

14 Q. And then do you see that the far right column of that
15 table is CFR, or case fatality rate, per 100,000 legal
16 abortions?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then do you see at the bottom right of the table
19 that the fatality rate of abortions, according to the table,
20 was 0.43 per 100,000 live births from 2013 to 2019?

21 A. I see that.

22 Q. Okay. Thank you. In your study and it's on -- it's
23 in paragraph -- I'm sorry, not in your study. In your
24 declaration in paragraph 33, you state that a study of 32
25 states in Mexico found that states with less permissive

1 abortion legislation exhibited lower maternal mortality rates
2 overall, is that right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. But that study didn't know that restrictive abortion
5 laws cause lower mortality rates, did it?

6 A. It was a correlation association.

7 Q. Right. So it didn't show causation, did it?

8 A. No. You can't do causation with induced abortion
9 studies. You're not going to ever randomize people to an
10 induced abortion. So yes, you have to do correlational
11 studies.

12 Q. And didn't that study explicitly state that the
13 initial estimated effects for all mortality outcomes were
14 explained by differences in other independent factors known to
15 influence maternal health rather than by abortion legislation
16 itself?

17 A. I need to look -- pull it up. But I do not recall
18 that -- I think it -- it recognized that it is multifactorial
19 why women die. So, you know, any time you're doing a
20 correlational study you're going to have to try to control for
21 confounding factors. So we of course have to recognize that
22 it's multifactorial.

23 Q. Understood.

24 MS. SALVADOR: So I am dropping the study
25 itself into the chat. If we could please have it marked as an

1 exhibit and then, Dr. Bane, please let me know if you have it
2 open.

3 - - -

4 (Document marked as Exhibit-U for
5 identification.)

6 - - -

7 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Give me just a second.

8 I'm trying to figure out in my -- did you say paragraph 33,
9 right?

10 BY MS. SALVADOR:

11 Q. Of your declaration?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. Yes. Paragraph 33. But it goes on to the next page.
14 Okay.

15 A. Okay. I'm just going to get that article.

16 Q. Yeah, I know it's hard to juggle these documents.

17 A. I was going to say, is there going to be a question at
18 the end of all of this?

19 Q. There absolutely will.

20 A. I figured as much. I'm looking through my stack for
21 that one. I'm a hard copy gal.

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. Okay. And you want me to confirm it's the same one,
24 right?

25 Q. Yes, please.

1 A. Okay.

2 (Pause.)

3 A. Sorry, I'm having a hard time getting it to come up.

4 So let's see. Okay. Let me just look. Okay.

5 Q. So is this the same study regarding abortion
6 legislation in Mexico that we have been talking about?

7 A. It is.

8 Q. So could you please go to page 10 of the document and
9 I'm using the numbers that are printed on the bottom right and
10 left.

11 A. Yes. I'm there.

12 Q. Okay. So in the discussion there is a section that
13 starts with discussion and then in the column on the right
14 there's a long paragraph and it's kind of in the middle
15 paragraph. So I'm going to read the sentence, nevertheless,
16 after an exhaustive analysis adjusting for multiple cofounders,
17 the initial estimated effects for all mortality outcomes were
18 explained by differences in other independent factors known to
19 influence maternal health rather than by abortion legislation
20 itself.

21 Did I read that correctly?

22 MR. BOYLE: Object to form. I think you said
23 cofounders and it's confounders.

24 MS. SALVADOR: I'm sorry, confounders.

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

1 BY MS. SALVADOR:

2 Q. And going a little bit further down in that paragraph,
3 there's a sentence that says consequently, making a direct or
4 independent causal link between a less permissive abortion law
5 and the lower incidence of maternal death, or conversely by
6 considering a more permissive abortion law would be a premature
7 or even erroneous conclusion. Is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Thank you. And we're done with this particular
10 study.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. So going back to your declaration, paragraph 35. You
13 cite a -- you state that medication abortions have a four times
14 higher rate -- I'm sorry, four times higher risk of
15 complications as compared to procedural abortions, is that
16 right?

17 A. You're in paragraph 35 now?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And for that statement you're citing a study by --
21 there's a bunch of authors, but it's by Niinimaki, et al., is
22 that right?

23 A. Yes. And then Mantula for the next statement, yes.

24 Q. Okay. So starting with Niinimaki, didn't the
25 medication abortion group in that study include abortions

1 performed with Misoprostol alone?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know whether PPSAT provides medication
4 abortions using Misoprostol alone?

5 A. I would need to look again at the policies and
6 procedures in order to answer that a hundred percent.

7 Q. And didn't the study describe both medication and
8 procedural abortion as generally safe?

9 A. I don't know what you mean by generally safe.

10 Q. Sure. One second.

11 MS. SALVADOR: So I am dropping a document into
12 the chat that starts -- the file name is Niinimaki, et al. Can
13 we please mark it as an exhibit and then, Dr. Bane, let me know
14 when you have it up, please.

15 - - -

16 (Document marked as Exhibit-V for
17 identification.)

18 - - -

19 THE WITNESS: Okay. I have it up. I'm just
20 going to get it out of my stack over here. Okay. I've got it.

21 BY MS. SALVADOR:

22 Q. And is the digital document the same as your hard copy
23 document?

24 A. It is.

25 Q. And is that the same Niinimaki study that we were

1 discussing?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So could you please go to page 798?

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Do you see that in the discussion -- right under the
6 discussion heading the first sentence is in the present study
7 we found that the two methods of pregnancy termination, medical
8 and surgical, are generally safe, is that correct?

9 A. Just a second. I'm trying to -- I'm missing a page.

10 So is that 798 you said?

11 Q. That's right. And if it's easier, I can also share my
12 screen.

13 A. No, I have got it up on my screen. For some reason I
14 don't have page 798 printed. So would you repeat that?

15 Q. Sure. Under the discussion heading, the first
16 sentence right there is in the present study, we found that the
17 two methods of pregnancy termination, medical and surgical, are
18 generally safe.

19 Did I read that sentence correctly?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And are you aware that this study characterized all
22 patient reports of heavy bleeding as hemorrhage even if they
23 were within the expected range for medication abortion?

24 A. I'm aware that that's a limitation of the study.

25 Q. And are you aware that in response to criticism that

1 other literature about medical abortion reported a dramatically
2 lower rate of complications than the authors of this study
3 conceded that many of the complications are not really such,
4 but rather concerns or adverse events that bring women back to
5 the healthcare system?

6 MR. BOYLE: Object to form. You can answer.

7 THE WITNESS: So I'm aware just based on
8 reading this study myself. I don't know about other
9 conversations that I've had. But in reading it, I'm aware that
10 there was probably some over reporting, which is a limitation.
11 When you document in studies you always document limitations.
12 And so I'm aware of that.

13 BY MS. SALVADOR:

14 Q. Are you aware that the study authors conceded that the
15 rate of serious real complications is rare and rather similar
16 between surgical and medical abortions?

17 A. I have no awareness that they have conceded that and
18 this study has not been retracted.

19 Q. Understood.

20 MS. SALVADOR: I am dropping another document
21 into the chat. The file name is Fjerstad-Niinimaki, letter to
22 editor. Could we please mark it as an exhibit and then Dr.
23 Bane, let me know when you have it open, please.

24 - - -

25 (Document marked as Exhibit-W for

1 identification.)

2 - - -

3 THE WITNESS: I have it open.

4 BY MS. SALVADOR:

5 Q. And you testified that you had reviewed Dr. Borass's
6 declarations in this case, is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you also said that you reviewed some, but not all,
9 of the literature she cited in her declarations, is that right?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Do you remember reviewing this particular document as
12 one of the sources she cited in her declaration?

13 A. Not immediately, but I need to read it. Do you want
14 me to do that?

15 Q. Sure. If you could just review. It says -- the
16 relevant part is going to be that end reply column on the
17 right.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. And then it will go down to the next page.

20 (Pause.)

21 A. Okay. Thank you.

22 Q. So was the reply written by Niinimaki and the other
23 coauthors of the study we're discussing?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And do you see at the bottom of page 660 on the right

1 that they write the main contributions that the present article
2 makes to the literature are rate of serious and then in
3 quotations, real. Complications is rare and rather similar
4 between surgical and medical abortions?

5 A. I do see that.

6 Q. In your declaration you claim that there is a
7 relationship between abortions and mental health complications,
8 is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And if you could go to paragraph 39 of your
11 declaration.

12 A. Sure. Okay.

13 Q. So you describe a study by Mota or Mota and some
14 others as discovering that abortion was associated with an
15 increased likelihood of several mental disorders, substance
16 abuse disorders, and suicidal ideation, is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is it true that in this study mental disorders were
19 assessed by lay interviewers rather than by clinicians?

20 A. Let me get the study.

21 Q. Sure. And since you're looking at it, I'm going to
22 put it in the chat and we'll mark it as an exhibit. Just one
23 second.

24 - - -

25 (Document marked as Exhibit-X for

1 identification.)

2 - - -

3 THE WITNESS: Let me go to the chat and get it.

4 BY MS. SALVADOR:

5 Q. I'm sorry. I know it's tedious.

6 A. It's okay. I could use a potty break soon, just so
7 y'all know.

8 Q. Okay. I just have a couple of questions about this
9 study and then maybe we can take another break.

10 A. Okay. Let me just confirm it's the same study. Okay.

11 Q. So the study that you're looking at the hard copy of
12 in the digital exhibit we just made, that's the same study,
13 right, that we have been talking about?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And do you see on the first page there's a box there
16 and it's got headings for clinical implications and
17 limitations?

18 A. On the first page?

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. I see that box, yes.

21 Q. And do you see that the first bullet point under
22 limitations says mental disorders were assessed by lay
23 interviewers?

24 A. I do see that.

25 Q. And then could you please go to page 245 of the study?

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. There's a heading that says conclusions. And then in
3 the middle of that paragraph it says exposure to violence is a
4 confounding factor in several of the associations between
5 mental disorders and abortions.

6 Did I read that correctly?

7 A. I'm sorry, where -- you're on page 244 under the
8 discussion?

9 Q. I'm sorry, 245 under the conclusion.

10 A. Oh, okay. Let me look on here. Okay.

11 Q. Should I repeat that question?

12 A. That would be nice. Thank you.

13 Q. Sure. So in that conclusion paragraph, in the middle
14 of the paragraph it says exposure to violence is a confounding
15 factor in several of the associations between mental disorders
16 and abortions.

17 Did I read that correctly?

18 A. I'm sorry, Anjali, I don't see where that is.

19 Q. Okay. I'm going to just for this one --

20 A. I see it now. I see it now.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So yes, I read that correctly?

24 A. You did.

25 Q. And then do you see that the next sentence says our

1 study does not support a unidirectional relation between
2 abortion and mental disorders?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And so this study didn't conclude that abortion caused
5 the mental disorders it discusses, did it?

6 A. So, once again, when you do research, there are
7 limitations and -- so when -- you're looking for associations
8 and -- when it's correlational research of this type. And so
9 you can't make the statement of cause and effect in this
10 literature. What you can do though is note that there are lots
11 of associations. It's similar to lung cancer. We can't say --
12 you can't say okay, you have to smoke for the next 20 years and
13 you don't and we're going to see who gets cancer and the
14 complications. But when you get an aggregate of data that
15 consistently show those associations, that then allows you to
16 draw inferences from that. So yes, you're talking about the
17 Mota study, but there are hundreds of studies looking at the
18 association. And yes, there are confounding variables, but we
19 know how to control those in research and look for the impact
20 -- you know, one of the strongest one is who I reference next,
21 Dr. Fergusson who is openly pro-choice and he's greatly
22 disturbed by the fact that his research shows me that women who
23 have had an abortion when he looks at them longitudinally have
24 similar to what this Mota study showed and, you know, his -- he
25 had trouble publishing it, unfortunately, because sometimes the

1 conclusions aren't what journals want. But it would be
2 scientifically irresponsible if I didn't. And so, you know,
3 there are just so many articles in this literature to show that
4 some women really do struggle with anxiety, depression,
5 substance use disorder and suicidal ideations. So something
6 that one in four women experience, I would think as a
7 scientific community we would want know as much as possible for
8 the safety and health and well-being of those women. So I
9 think categorizing correlational research as not good research
10 is a misnomer. We would never be able to say lung cancer is
11 caused, you know, by cigarette smoking.

12 Q. For sure. And we'll get -- I know you wanted a break,
13 so we'll get to the Fergusson study after the break. But just
14 on this study, would you say that it's fair that one of the
15 flaws of the particular Mota research used in this study is
16 that it cannot concretely establish causation?

17 A. So it is a limitation in all correlational research
18 that by itself causation -- it's not a randomized trial in
19 which you have an abortion and you don't. So you cannot by
20 itself say causation and that's not what I implied in my
21 declaration.

22 Q. Got it. Thank you. And based on your experience as a
23 physician, would you say that anxiety, depression, substance
24 use and suicidal ideation are things that folks might struggle
25 with after giving birth also?

1 A. Rarely.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. Yes. But I don't -- most women have tremendous amount
4 of joy after giving birth. And so to equate that women who
5 have a pregnancy loss of any kind, whether it's an abortion or
6 a miscarriage, an ectopic, those women struggle in a different
7 capacity than women who give birth.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you very much. We can take a break and
9 go off the record.

10 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Thank you.

11 MS. SALVADOR: 10 minutes.

12 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: We are now going off the
13 video record. The time is 4:18 p.m.

14 (A break was taken.)

15 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: We are now back on the
16 video record. The time is 4:29 p.m.

17 BY MS. SALVADOR:

18 Q. Okay. So Dr. Bane, we left off discussing paragraph
19 39 of your declaration and the studies you cite there.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. So in your declaration you describe a study by
22 Fergusson, et al. as finding that women who had abortions had
23 30 percent increased rates of mental disorders, is that right?

24 A. Yeah. Let me get that one.

25 Q. Sure.

1 (Pause.)

2 A. I got the right one.

3 Q. Could you define confounding in the research context,
4 please.

5 A. Sure. So basically we know that many relationships
6 are multifactorial. So in research you -- if you're trying to
7 look at an association between two variables, you want to
8 control for confounding variables, other things that might be
9 associated. So in studies what you could do is you can control
10 for those and see if a relationship still exists after
11 controlling for those.

12 Q. Got it. Thank you. So didn't the study state, the
13 Fergusson study state that the small association between
14 abortion and mental health found in the study could be
15 explained by uncontrolled residual confounding?

16 A. I would need to look at the sentence you're talking
17 about.

18 Q. Okay. One second.

19 MS. SALVADOR: I am dropping the study into the
20 chat. Can we please mark it as an exhibit. And then, Dr.
21 Bane, if you can please confirm that we're all looking at the
22 same thing.

23 THE WITNESS: Okay.

24 - - -

25 (Document marked as Exhibit-Y for

1 identification.)

2 - - -

3 THE WITNESS: Okay. They're the same.

4 BY MS. SALVADOR:

5 Q. Great. So if you go to page 450 of the study.

6 A. Sorry, my sheet was out of order. My page numbers got
7 cut off when I printed it. Yes, the page with implications on
8 it?

9 Q. Yes, that's right. So right before that implications
10 heading, there's a sentence that starts in particular in that
11 paragraph right before. And it says in particular, it could be
12 suggested that the small association between abortion and
13 mental health found in this study could be explained by
14 uncontrolled residual confounding.

15 Did I read that correctly?

16 A. You read it correctly.

17 Q. Going back to your declaration. And we're still in
18 paragraph 39. You also describe a study by Coleman as finding
19 that adolescents who aborted an unwanted pregnancy were more
20 likely than adolescents who delivered to seek psychological
21 counseling and that they reported more frequent problems
22 sleeping and more frequent marijuana use, is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Are you aware that Coleman's work on abortion and
25 mental health has been heavily criticized by scientific

1 experts, including the Royal College of Psychiatrists?

2 A. I am quite aware that Dr. Coleman has had one study
3 that was retracted. She also had another study that was
4 attempted to be retracted and in her study that was attempted
5 to be retracted, that study was then in -- I believe it was in
6 the British Journal of Psychiatry, which is one of the highest
7 impact factor publications, that they actually -- there was a
8 group of people that wanted it retracted, they did an
9 investigation and this is a very reputable journal and they
10 kept it in there. I'm aware in the Frontiers of Psychology, I
11 believe that's the one that retracted it, she did not even have
12 the opportunity to give a rebuttal, which is extremely -- it's
13 malpractice in research for that. And she has had a long
14 career of a variety of studies that are in the literature and
15 are well published and well respected. So I am quite aware
16 that there is that one study.

17 Q. And would you say that retraction of the study is a
18 fairly significant thing to have happen?

19 A. I am aware of retraction being a significant one.
20 It's kind of like what I experienced at Barton College this
21 year. They didn't like -- a group of people didn't like the
22 fact that I was going to be sharing information that wasn't
23 from -- it didn't have a conclusion that they particularly
24 liked and they tried to retract and not allow me to talk.
25 Fortunately my administration eventually allowed me, supported

1 me to talk. So I wish that she had had the opportunity to give
2 -- to do what the other journal did and found there was nothing
3 wrong in what she did. There has to be scientific integrity
4 and sadly, she's being classified as somebody who doesn't have
5 that when she has a tremendous amount to offer in her work.

6 Q. Generally speaking wouldn't you say that a scientific
7 journal would not retract a study just because some people
8 dislike it?

9 A. When I was training in my Ph.D. I would have said
10 that, but I don't think that is necessarily true anymore. I
11 think that a lot of the professional societies who print their
12 own journals, they decide which studies to have in those
13 journals. And, you know, we all have bias, all of us. And I
14 gave a talk on diversity, equity and inclusion at this
15 conference I'm at and I spoke about implicit bias and I said
16 the most important thing is for us to be aware that we have it.
17 And so in research every one of us on this call have biases and
18 I'm aware that I have biases. As you said earlier, I'm a
19 pro-life advocate. Okay. That should make me be an even
20 better researcher because I know my biases and if I care more
21 about the truth than I care about being right, then I can look
22 at my research, my data, just like Dr. Coleman does, Dr.
23 Fergusson who this study I cited, it took him four journals to
24 get it accepted because they didn't like his conclusion. And
25 he -- he basically is -- said I'm pro-choice. I didn't like my

1 results either, but I want women to be safe, so we need to
2 publish my results. He said I get my stuff -- he's so
3 internationally known he gets his research published the first
4 try. It took him four tries to get a journal. So I get scared
5 about where publication and the ability to publish when it goes
6 against what certain professional organizations want to see.

7 Q. Just to be clear, just now you were talking about Dr.
8 Fergusson and not Dr. Coleman, is that right?

9 A. I was talking about both of them. But Dr. Fergusson,
10 I was talking about his article that I cited in my declaration
11 took him four tries to get published and he -- it was very
12 discouraging because of the fact that he is so well respect
13 had. You know, there are certain people that when they submit
14 and you're the author in a journal there, they are happy you
15 chose their journal and he's one of those type people, yet his
16 finding weren't consistent with what some wanted to get out
17 there, which is very sad and scares me.

18 Q. Going back to the study -- the Coleman study that we
19 were talking about, are you -- the one that you cited in your
20 declaration, to be clear. Didn't the study also explicitly
21 state that design limitations precluded definitive assumptions
22 about causation for some of the same reasons that we talked
23 about today?

24 A. Yes, it's -- once again, this whole body of literature
25 is -- you can't randomize people to have an abortion or not.

1 And so you have to either retrospectively look back at charts
2 or you can prospectively follow them. Which both Dr.
3 Fergusson and Dr. Coleman's studies were longitudinal studies.
4 They were prospective, which gives them great strength. But
5 once again, because mental health issues are not going to
6 necessarily -- they're going to be multifactorial, you can set
7 up your study design to control for those and still see
8 associations.

9 Q. And going back to your declaration. Again, we're
10 still in paragraph 39. You also discuss a -- or, I'm sorry,
11 we're now in paragraph 40. You also discuss a Finnish study
12 showing a higher suicide rate after abortion when compared to
13 giving birth, is that right?

14 A. I do.

15 Q. Are you aware of how the maternal mortality rate in
16 Finland compares to the maternal mortality rate in the United
17 States?

18 A. I would have to -- not off the top of my head, no. I
19 would have to look at the study.

20 Q. Is it your opinion that abortion causes increased
21 suicidality?

22 A. It is my opinion there's an association between
23 abortion and suicidal ideation, as well as suicide. Once
24 again, being an increased risk. So we know mental disorders,
25 anxiety, particularly depression, and they can be comorbid,

1 meaning about half the people who have depression also have an
2 element of anxiety, is a significant risk factor for suicide.
3 And so it follows that if a woman struggles after an abortion
4 with anxiety or depression, that could lead to suicidal
5 ideation and suicide. So once again, the type of study is
6 correlational and there's an association. But there are
7 criteria so that if you continue over and over again to get the
8 same correlational studies showing this, then that strengthens,
9 as I said with the lung cancer example, that there is a very
10 strong association.

11 Q. And to your knowledge is increased suicidal ideation
12 ever associated with child birth for the period post-child
13 birth?

14 A. Yes. So postpartum depression occurs and with the
15 same rationale I just explained, a woman has postpartum
16 depression would have an increased risk of suicidal ideation as
17 well as suicide.

18 Q. And doesn't the Finnish study that you cite in your
19 declaration also say social circumstances might be a common
20 risk factor in terms of deaths from suicide and homicide?

21 A. I'll need to pull up the study.

22 Q. Sure.

23 MS. SALVADOR: So I'm dropping the study into
24 the chat like we have been doing. If we could please mark it
25 as an exhibit and then, Dr. Bane, please confirm that we're

1 looking at the same document.

2 - - -

3 (Document marked as Exhibit-Z for
4 identification.)

5 - - -

6 THE WITNESS: Okay.

7 MR. BOYLE: I believe this one is already --

8 THE WITNESS: Yeah, it's not in my stack.

9 MR. BOYLE: You're talking about the Niinimaki
10 study?

11 MS. SALVADOR: No, this is Karalis.

12 MR. BOYLE: Oh.

13 THE WITNESS: Just a second. Let me look. So
14 paragraph 40. So number 28. Okay. My reference 28.

15 (Pause.)

16 THE WITNESS: I'm going to have to rely on
17 yours. I misplaced it. We pulled out a lot of documents. Let
18 me go to the chat.

19 BY MS. SALVADOR:

20 Q. We're almost to the end of the part that's heavy on
21 studies so...

22 A. Okay. My desk looks like a mess over there. Okay.
23 Oh, yeah. Okay. So where did you want me to look?

24 Q. So first, could you please confirm that this is the
25 same Karalis study that you cite in your declaration?

1 A. It is.

2 Q. So could you please go to page 1119.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. And under the sentence right before conclusion it says
5 higher mortality rates after termination of pregnancy among
6 teenagers, and especially deaths from suicide and homicide,
7 indicate that women are very vulnerable at this stage and that
8 social circumstances might be a common risk factor.

9 Did I read that correctly?

10 A. You read that correctly and it's consistent with all
11 the other examples we have gone through of correlational
12 studies. A design always in studies is, you know, when you
13 present your research you're going to want to put the
14 limitations and the confounding so that you're -- the reader
15 knows you're not looking just narrowly. And, you know, they're
16 highlighting the fact that suicides among teenagers, and
17 especially deaths from suicide and homicide, while they
18 increase, it's not going to be the only factor. So it's
19 consistent with all the studies that are out there showing an
20 association.

21 Q. Would you agree that it's important that studying and
22 examining mental health and abortion control for the person's
23 reason for getting an abortion?

24 A. Sure.

25 Q. Would you agree that someone who had an abortion of a

1 wanted pregnancy might have a different emotional reaction than
2 someone who had an abortion of a pregnancy they didn't want?

3 A. We know that there are actually several factors. I
4 didn't cite it in my declaration, but I believe -- I think it's
5 up to 14 factors that are more commonly associated with mental
6 health disorders and this doesn't just come from -- gosh, it's
7 a text that looks at abortion and psychological impact. I
8 can't recall it right now, but I could get the reference for
9 you. But it is very commonly known that there are certain risk
10 factors that are more associated with a risk for mental health
11 issues afterwards and adjustment, negative emotions like anger
12 and guilt. So yes, not every woman is exactly alike when it
13 comes to her risk.

14 Q. Would you agree that a good comparison for studies
15 examining mental health and abortion would be between people
16 who wanted an abortion and got one versus people who wanted an
17 abortion but couldn't get one?

18 A. So you're talking about the Turnaway Study, it sounds
19 like. I think a better one is an -- comparing women who had an
20 unwanted pregnancy or an unplanned let's -- let me correct
21 that. An unplanned pregnancy, which is what I see all the
22 time, and comparing women who had an abortion and women who
23 chose to give birth and following them longitudinally. That is
24 a much better comparison.

25 Q. So it sounds like you're familiar with the Turnaway

1 Study?

2 A. Yes. I don't have it in front of me, but yes, I am.

3 Q. And are you familiar with how the Turnaway Study was
4 designed?

5 A. I'm familiar to the extent that they -- they provided
6 their sampling plan. If you look in their very long document
7 about it they don't actually give you very specifics and so
8 that's a major limitation. And it's actually not a great
9 research from the standpoint of one of the strengths of
10 research is that it's reproducible. So I should be able to
11 take their methods and replicate their methods and see what I
12 find. That's when studies are stronger. And unfortunately
13 they don't clarify that very well.

14 Q. And are you aware that Dr. Wubbenhorst, your fellow
15 expert in this case, has referred to the Turnaway Study as
16 extremely well designed?

17 A. No, I'm not aware of that.

18 Q. So you would not agree with that?

19 A. No, I would not.

20 Q. Got it. And are you aware that the American
21 Psychological Association has said that research shows that
22 having an abortion is not linked to mental health problems?

23 A. I am aware of their statement. I disagree with it,
24 but I am aware of it.

25 Q. So you also state in your declaration that hemorrhage

1 is a risk of abortion, right? And this is in paragraph 35.

2 A. Did you say hemorrhage?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Okay. Sorry. You switched gears.

5 Q. I did. I'm sorry.

6 A. We're going to paragraph 35?

7 Q. Yes, we are.

8 A. Okay. I am aware that hemorrhage is a risk of
9 abortion.

10 Q. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off.

11 A. Oh, no. No. You're fine.

12 Q. So in your opinion what amount of blood loss
13 constitutes hemorrhage in the abortion context?

14 A. So we'll typically when a woman is bleeding say to her
15 if you're filling two pads an hour full of blood for more than
16 two hours is typically what I will tell them, I want you to
17 call me. I'm concerned about that level of bleeding.

18 Q. And is there a risk of hemorrhage associated with
19 childbirth as well?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you know whether the risk of hemorrhage is greater
22 with carrying a pregnancy to term or abortion?

23 A. I don't know head-to-head studies that look at that
24 particular thing. I know the average birth is -- a vaginal
25 delivery is about 500 cc of blood. A c-section is more. And

1 so if a woman does not have hemorrhage you would expect much
2 less than that. But if she has hemorrhage, it could be a wide
3 range of amounts.

4 Q. So you don't know whether the risk of hemorrhage is
5 greater with childbirth versus abortion?

6 A. I don't know of studies that have like -- I can't
7 reference a study, so that's just a big generalization.

8 Q. Got it. And you state in your declaration also that
9 infection is a risk of abortion, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is there a risk of infection associated with carrying
12 to term in childbirth also?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Could you describe how that infection might arise in
15 the childbirth context?

16 A. Yeah. So postpartum --- well, if we're talking about
17 -- and if you could clarify, Anjali, that would help me.
18 You're saying after a woman has had a baby or during her
19 pregnancy?

20 Q. Both. Let's do both. So why don't you go one by one.

21 A. Okay. So I guess what I'll probably do just to not
22 make this too long is what I'm talking about in my declaration
23 is an infection after a pregnancy -- after an induced abortion.
24 So probably just an infection after delivery. Because, I mean,
25 a woman can get every type of infection during pregnancy that

1 she can get when she's not pregnant, plus she can get, for
2 example, the chorioamnionitis that I mentioned also because she
3 has a gestational sac that she wouldn't have when she's not
4 pregnant. But after pregnancy women can get something called
5 postpartum endometritis where they get an infection of the
6 lining of the uterus and that infection -- when you think about
7 the fact that the cervix opens to 10 centimeters to deliver a
8 baby vaginally or by c-section that while it's a sterile
9 environment, you still have the risk of infection. You're
10 using instruments and things like that. So she can present
11 with a fever. It's usually after she has gone home and she
12 presents with a fever and sometimes abnormal discharge that's
13 consistent with infection. And we treat it with antibiotics.

14 Q. Do you know whether the risk of endometritis is
15 greater after childbirth like you have been describing or after
16 an abortion?

17 A. No, I do not. And -- yeah. No.

18 Q. So it sounds like you have treated patients with
19 endometritis, is that right?

20 A. I have.

21 Q. And you said you treated them with antibiotics, is
22 that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did that treatment always require hospitalization of
25 the patient?

1 A. Not always.

2 Q. How often does that treatment require hospitalization?

3 A. I can't give you a percentage. I don't know the
4 answer to that.

5 Q. Would you say more often than not you had to
6 hospitalize those patients?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you think that endometritis can only be treated
9 safely in a hospital?

10 A. I think you have to look at the clinical context and
11 how sick the woman is and make a decision also how reliable she
12 is and how -- whether or not she wants to go to the hospital.
13 She's got a newborn now. You know, so I think that you can
14 give her the option if you feel like she can be safely treated
15 as an outpatient and check in with her. So I think you can
16 give options.

17 Q. Okay. So in certain circumstances you can safely
18 treat endometritis outside of the hospital setting, is that
19 right?

20 A. Yeah. But it usually requires I.V. antibiotics
21 typically. So the majority are in the hospital. I'm trying to
22 think even now -- I think -- to be honest, I have to change my
23 statement. I'm pretty sure we did everybody in the hospital.
24 It's been over 10 years. There may be a protocol now for
25 outpatient. I also think I was thinking about someone with

1 mastitis, which is infection in the breast. And we have
2 treated a lot of those women as an outpatient.

3 Q. Got it. Thank you. So you also state in your
4 declaration -- and now we're at paragraph 37.

5 A. All right.

6 Q. You also state in your declaration that a single
7 induced abortion increases the risk of preterm birth, is that
8 right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you cite a study by Hanes, et al., is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But didn't that study also say that association
13 between abortion and preterm birth may be due to chance or bias
14 or confounding variables?

15 A. Once again, good researchers actually talk about
16 limitations and recognize that preterm birth has many factors
17 associated with it. So what they're trying to do is -- in this
18 case it was a review of the literature and take all the
19 different studies and -- that met the criteria for their
20 metaanalysis and look at it recognizing that an association
21 does exist, yet there are other factors that come into play.

22 Q. Right. So they recognize that the association could
23 be due to chance, bias, or confounding variables, is that
24 right?

25 A. They do recognize that. But they do also say that

1 there is consistent evidence that there's an association and it
2 is a risk factor for preterm birth.

3 Q. Got it. Thank you. And your declaration also states
4 in that same paragraph 37 that more than one abortion has been
5 shown to increase the risk for preterm birth by 93 percent, is
6 that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that's the study by Shah, et al., is that right,
9 or Shah and Zao?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But didn't that study also explicitly note that it
12 doesn't establish that multiple abortions cause that increased
13 risk, correct?

14 A. Let me get that study. Just a second.

15 Q. Sure.

16 MS. SALVADOR: And I'm going to put that in the
17 chat as well and please mark that as an exhibit. And, Dr.
18 Bane, please confirm that we're looking at the same thing.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay.

20 - - -

21 (Document marked as Exhibit-AA for
22 identification.)

23 - - -

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, I have got the study now.

25 BY MS. SALVADOR:

1 Q. Okay. And it's the same study by Shah and Zao that
2 we've been discussing?

3 A. It is.

4 Q. Okay. Could we go to page 1438, please.

5 A. I'm there.

6 Q. Okay. So if you go to the right column there is a
7 heading that says implications for practice. And above that
8 heading there is a long paragraph. And I'm going to read
9 starting from the middle of it. So it says we must caution
10 readers that we have restricted ourselves to explore the
11 association of I-TOP -- I-TOP being previously defined as
12 induced termination of pregnancy -- and pregnancy outcomes.
13 Several biomedical, social, environmental, lifestyle-related,
14 genetic and other factors contribute to a preterm and/or LBW --
15 that's low birth weight -- births and this needs to be kept in
16 mind in interpreting our results. We caution interpretation
17 being causal as confounding effects of socioeconomic factors,
18 which are important, were considered in very few studies only.
19 Discussion regarding downsides of I-TOP are incomplete without
20 discussing downside of unwanted pregnancies as they are also at
21 risk of adverse outcomes.

22 Did I read that correctly?

23 A. You did.

24 Q. So we have gone over a lot of studies. Have any of
25 these studies that we have gone over lead you to want to modify

1 the opinions you state in your declarations -- in your
2 declaration, I'm sorry?

3 A. No, they simply reinforce what I have repeatedly said
4 this afternoon, that really good research recognizes the
5 limitations of the research. But we also know that -- like for
6 example, what you just read, if I was -- if I was a reviewer
7 for this paper, I would be looking for that paragraph right
8 there. And the fact that it is there and the fact that they
9 acknowledge that it is there shows me that bias I was talking
10 about earlier. They're trying to control for that. They're
11 not in any way trying to say that this is a causal
12 relationship. But once again, this is review of a lot of
13 studies. And what I like about this is we know that the
14 preterm birth rate is so high in this country. We also know
15 that it's higher in black women. And we also know that black
16 women have more abortions. And so wouldn't we care enough
17 about black women and their children to want to really
18 understand this relationship. So if indeed induced abortion is
19 a contributing factor, not the only factor, but a contributing
20 factor to why they're delivering premature children that have
21 chronic diseases, because that's a risk factor of prematurity,
22 not all of them have them, wouldn't we want women to know when
23 they're making that decision about whether or not to give birth
24 or to have an abortion. And so I -- I applaud these authors
25 for doing that and so many of what you have cited just

1 reinforces that these are really important studies that I
2 included and that the authors are doing good research.

3 Q. I got it. Thanks for your explanation. So we're
4 going to switch gears a little bit. We talked a little bit
5 about hemorrhage earlier. Did you ever treat patients who were
6 hemorrhaging in your medical practice?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Under what circumstances?

9 A. Probably the most common would be postpartum
10 hemorrhage. So a woman delivers a baby and then her bleeding
11 doesn't slow down. It could also be that she had a placental
12 abruption, which means the placenta comes off the edge of the
13 uterine wall and she could bleed. She could have a placenta
14 previa where the placenta is implanted over the internal os,
15 which is the internal opening of the cervix, and she could
16 bleed. Intraoperatively I dealt with hemorrhages in women. I
17 particularly remember some traumas of pregnant women who were
18 in car accidents, one in a train accident. Yeah.

19 Q. And in the labor and delivery context, I think you
20 might have mentioned the number before, but in terms of the
21 amount of blood, what do you mean by hemorrhage?

22 A. So, you know, in terms of labor and delivery, you
23 know, it's not normal when you're not giving birth to bleed.
24 And so, you know, the placenta accreta, the placental
25 abruptions, these women are coming in and they're soaking pads

1 or, you know, they can't control the bleeding.

2 In terms of postpartum hemorrhage after a delivery, it
3 would be -- I mentioned 500 ccs, but -- for a vaginal delivery.
4 When you're in the middle of a postpartum hemorrhage, holy cow,
5 the bleeding is so brisk because the -- a pregnant uterus, the
6 blood vessels are -- particularly at term are very large.
7 They're engorged. They have a lot of blood flow. So you have
8 to act fast and you have -- in your head you have to go through
9 your differential diagnosis. You know, do you have uterine
10 atony, meaning the uterus is not contracting down to top --
11 when the uterus contracts down, it squeezes the blood vessels
12 and helps. You have to think of that. You have to think is
13 there a laceration in there. Is there some retained placenta
14 in there. So you're differentially diagnosing while you're
15 calling for treatment options.

16 Q. And have you ever treated patients who are
17 hemorrhaging in the miscarriage management context?

18 A. So yes, I have. And the -- typically there we did
19 most of our D&Cs in the operating room where we could use
20 suction aspiration and often times control that well. But, you
21 know, if they were still bleeding heavily, we would have to
22 give them -- well, you can do uterine massage, you can give
23 medicines that help contract the uterus, things like that.

24 Q. So you said you handled most of your D&Cs in the
25 operating room. So where would the other -- where else would

1 you handle D&Cs?

2 A. Oh, so what I meant is some that do expectant
3 management. I never did D&Cs in the outpatient setting.

4 Q. And would the definition of hemorrhage for a D&C be a
5 different amount than the labor and delivery amount we just
6 talked about?

7 A. Yes, it would be less typically.

8 Q. About how much?

9 A. I would probably say 200 cc.

10 Q. Do you think that hemorrhage can only ever be treated
11 safely in hospitals?

12 A. I think that --

13 MR. BOYLE: Objection to form. You can answer.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay. I think hospitals are much
15 more equipped to handle hemorrhage, particularly with a
16 pregnant uterus. And the risk of uterine atony that we can
17 have with it and lacerations, I think hospitals have the
18 resources they -- if I need to do an immediate transfusion they
19 have blood banks, they have -- if she bleeds so much that she
20 needs support from an ICU team, if she were to, God forbid,
21 code, they have code teams there. I have anesthesiologists
22 that can intubate her and nurse anesthetists. So I think that
23 every pregnant woman's life matters and because of that I want
24 her, should I have hemorrhaging, to be near the resources that
25 can best save her life.

1 BY MS. SALVADOR:

2 Q. Do you think a hemorrhage of 200 cc can be treated
3 safely in an outpatient setting?

4 MR. BOYLE: Object to form.

5 THE WITNESS: I think that if you -- so when I
6 said 200 cc, what I'm talking about is maybe she initially
7 comes in and complains and has 200 cc, but it's not like then
8 it's turned off. She's continuing to bleed. And so, you know,
9 I have reviewed the protocols that Planned Parenthood -- PPS --
10 I'm sorry, the acronym you said at the beginning -- southern
11 states has. And it's obvious that they do have protocols, but
12 it's obvious that they recognize that they can have an awful
13 lot of hemorrhaging because their protocols are very, you know,
14 multilayered that go way beyond what you would do if there was
15 200 cc of loss only.

16 BY MS. SALVADOR:

17 Q. In your medical practice have you ever treated
18 patients with cervical tears or lacerations?

19 A. I have.

20 Q. Under what circumstances?

21 A. Usually childbirth is where you can have it. I'm
22 trying to think if any other times that I recall cervical
23 lacerations. When you're dilating the cervix using the
24 dilators, which are metal instruments that you sequentially
25 dilate the cervix when you're doing a D&C, you can have a

1 laceration from that.

2 Q. Got it. And so -- and then you said before also that
3 all of your D&Cs you would perform in a hospital setting, is
4 that right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Is it your opinion that cervical tears can only be
7 treated safely in a hospital?

8 A. It's my opinion that cervical tears bleed really
9 rapidly and that I would not try to be -- in a hospital setting
10 your ability to visualize, you have to picture your -- the
11 cervix is, you know, four, five centimeters inside the vaginal
12 canal. And so if you're in an office setting, to try to
13 visualize it and control the blood is a lot more difficult than
14 it is in a hospital. So as much as anything, yes, you have the
15 resources if you can't get the bleeding to stop in a hospital,
16 but you also have the ability in terms of -- with the amount of
17 blood loss I have seen with cervical tears to just have, you
18 know, the surgical packs that are available to help you have
19 the instrumentation that you need.

20 Q. I'm sorry, that isn't quite what I asked. So I asked
21 whether you think that cervical tears can only ever be treated
22 safely in hospitals?

23 A. No. I think that if you have a cervical tear -- and
24 I'm just trying to recall if I ever had a cervical tear when I
25 was in my office that I had to try to repair that -- I think it

1 would be harder. But I think that if you had to repair it, you
2 would do the best you could. But it would be more difficult
3 without having the instrumentation.

4 Q. And you mentioned doing a D&C with four to five
5 centimeters of dilatation. Do you always have to dilate to
6 that amount when you're doing a D&C?

7 A. No. I'm sorry, that's not what I said. Maybe it
8 sounded like what I said. I apologize. Let me fix that. The
9 cervix is four to five centimeters like in the vaginal canal.
10 So you have to put a speculum in and it's not like the cervix
11 is right at the opening. It's deep in the canal. So no, no,
12 you do not have to dilate four to five centimeters. I was just
13 saying from a landmark perspective the cervix -- if you have a
14 cervical laceration you have to get deep into the vagina. And
15 so visualization -- you're not just going to start throwing
16 stitches without seeing where you think your source of the
17 bleeding is and that's difficult because the cervix is so far
18 away.

19 Q. Understood. Thank you for clarifying.

20 A. You're welcome.

21 Q. Did you ever use sedation in your medical practice?

22 A. Not that I was overseeing. The nurse anesthetist or
23 the anesthesiologist was overseeing the sedation because that's
24 out of the scope of my practice.

25 Q. And what types of sedation were you overseeing? I'm

1 sorry, you said you were not overseeing, is that right?

2 A. So it depends -- I guess I should clarify. If
3 somebody was -- let's say she was coming in for something
4 called a LEEP procedure or a colposcopy procedure, which is
5 what we use to manage abnormal Pap smears, and she just said
6 I'm really anxious. Like I would go to the radiology
7 department and do something called a hysterosalpingogram to
8 look for whether tubes were opened or closed for women who had
9 infertility. If she said to me I'm really anxious then I would
10 give her potentially something called a benzodiazapine, which
11 is an over-the-counter medicine for anxiety. That could be
12 categorized as like very mild sedation. But I would give those
13 to women who potentially had an anxiety disorder. What I think
14 I want to just make sure I clarify is that I don't think it's
15 the role of an obstetrician and gynecologist to manage deeper
16 levels of sedation that anesthesiologists, nurse anesthetists
17 are specifically trained to do.

18 Q. And so for those patients who you would prescribe
19 benzos, was that ever in an outpatient facility?

20 A. Yes, it would potentially be in the office, that they
21 would get -- you know, 30 minutes before their procedure that
22 they would get that medicine.

23 Q. And were you able to administer that medicine safely
24 in an outpatient facility?

25 A. So they -- I didn't administer it. I would write a

1 prescription and they would take it before they came. So if
2 that's your definition of administer it, then yes, I was for
3 those situations.

4 Q. And did you ever supervise the use of I.V. sedation?

5 A. I did not.

6 Q. And did you ever supervise the use of kind of local
7 anesthesia?

8 A. So I use local anesthesia. So, for example, if you're
9 doing a procedure in the office sometimes we would put it in
10 the cervix. If we're removing like a -- doing a vulvar biopsy.
11 So I would do local anesthesia, yes. But not any sort of
12 systemic anesthesia. That's what I'm referencing to. I think
13 that's out of the scope of the practice of anyone but an
14 anesthesiologist and nurse anesthetist.

15 Q. Understood. And that local -- that local anesthesia
16 that you're referring to, you were able to administer that in
17 an outpatient facility?

18 A. I was.

19 Q. So we're going to switch gears a little bit. What is
20 an ectopic pregnancy?

21 A. An ectopic pregnancy is a pregnancy that is outside of
22 the uterine cavity. It can be -- well, most commonly it's in
23 the fallopian tube, but it can occur in other places such as
24 the ovary, can even be intraabdominal, cervical.

25 Q. And how are ectopic pregnancies detected?

1 A. Ectopic pregnancies are detected by ultrasound.

2 Q. Would you agree that an ectopic screening protocol
3 that uses ultrasound, the patient's medical history, and hCG
4 testing is an appropriate protocol?

5 A. So you said three things. You said ultrasound,
6 history and hCG?

7 Q. That's right.

8 A. So I follow the protocol from ACOG and I think it's a
9 committee opinion or a Practical Bulletin 191. It got updated
10 to 193. I think I used 191 in my declaration. There's an
11 updated 193 and I follow their protocol which includes, yes,
12 doing those things to document whether an individual has an
13 ectopic pregnancy.

14 Q. And how early can ultrasounds detect pregnancy?

15 A. We can usually see a gestational sac about five weeks.
16 It doesn't confirm that it's not an intrauterine pregnancy just
17 to see a sac. So we have to be cautious with that because you
18 can something called a pseudosac with an ectopic pregnancy.
19 You can also have what's called a heterotopic pregnancy, which
20 is fortunately very rare, but it's an intrauterine pregnancy
21 and an ectopic pregnancy at the same time.

22 Q. What is a pregnancy of unknown location?

23 A. So a pregnancy of unknown location is a transient
24 situation. It not a diagnosis. It is where you don't know
25 exactly if the person -- if the woman has an intrauterine

1 pregnancy or an ectopic. So you have to have a high clinical
2 suspicion when you have -- any time you have a pregnant patient
3 you have to have a high clinical suspicion that she has an
4 ectopic until you prove otherwise. But particularly if you
5 were expecting to see an intrauterine pregnancy based on a sure
6 last menstrual period for example, which we know unfortunately
7 only happens about 50 percent of the time. A lot of women
8 don't know their last menstrual period. But yeah, it's
9 particularly important that we follow those women who have
10 pregnancy of unknown location because we really -- for her
11 safety we haven't confirmed where her pregnancy is located.

12 Q. So you wouldn't consider a pregnancy of unknown
13 location equivalent to a confirmed ectopic then, would you?

14 A. No, I would not. I would basically have a high
15 clinical suspicion until proven otherwise that she had an
16 ectopic. If she has an intrauterine pregnancy I'm not going to
17 send her home and she potentially die on me. But if she has an
18 ectopic pregnancy and I send her home she could rupture that
19 and unfortunately it's one of the leading causes of maternal
20 mortality in the first trimester.

21 Q. So is it your medical opinion that all pregnancies
22 should be assumed to be ectopic until proven otherwise?

23 A. It is my medical opinion than I want to document every
24 pregnancy to confirm an IUP and that gives me a great sense of
25 reassurance. So yes, I think all pregnancies we have to

1 document that we have an IUP.

2 Q. If a pregnancy has -- sorry. If a patient has a
3 pregnancy of unknown location --

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. -- but doesn't have symptoms of ectopic pregnancy and
6 doesn't have risk factors for ectopic pregnancy in their
7 medical history --

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. -- would you consider that a suspected ectopic
10 pregnancy?

11 A. So we know that 50 percent of our patients who have no
12 risk factors have ectopic pregnancies. So the standard of care
13 is not screening them. And so yes, I would still be very
14 concerned and want to make sure she has an intrauterine
15 pregnancy.

16 Q. So you would consider that a suspected ectopic
17 pregnancy then, just to make sure I understand your answer?

18 A. Could you give me the clinical situation again?

19 Q. Sure. So if a patient has a pregnancy of unknown
20 location, has no symptoms of ectopic pregnancy, no risk factors
21 for ectopic pregnancy indicated in their medical history, would
22 you consider that a suspected ectopic?

23 A. I would consider -- I would have a certain level of
24 clinical suspicion, but often times when I document I will say
25 I have a low level of clinical suspicion or I have a higher

1 level of clinical suspicion, but there is suspicion there
2 because I have not proven that she has an intrauterine
3 pregnancy.

4 Q. Got it. Thank you. I'm sorry, I was just trying to
5 find your declaration again because I accidentally closed a tab.
6 So let's go to paragraph 61 of your declaration.

7 A. Okay. I'm there.

8 Q. So in paragraph 61 of your declaration you state that
9 people who receive abortion medication without an ultrasound
10 may result and delay detection and treatment of an ectopic
11 pregnancy, is that right?

12 A. I state the pregnant woman with an ectopic -- oh, yes.
13 Yes.

14 Q. Sorry, I should have clarified where I was starting to
15 quote. So the quote is women who desire an induced abortion
16 and receive abortion medications Mifepristone and Misoprostol
17 without an ultrasound may result in delayed detection and
18 treatment of an ectopic pregnancy.

19 Did I read that correctly?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is it your understanding that PPSAT uses a patient's
22 recollection of their last menstrual period alone to date a
23 pregnancy?

24 A. I would have to look at their documentation.

25 Q. Okay. So you're not sure?

1 A. No. I know that they -- based on what I reviewed,
2 that they use last menstrual period. And I am aware that they
3 do give Mifepristone and Misoprostol without -- on the same day
4 sometimes without a documented IUP, if that's your question.

5 Q. So is it your understanding then that PPSAT provides
6 medication abortion to patients with pregnancies of unknown
7 location without those patients having an ultrasound?

8 A. I am aware of that and it bothers me. It's -- I don't
9 think it's standard of care and it's inconsistent with ACOG'S
10 recommendations in Practice Bulletin 193.

11 Q. Is it your understanding that PPSAT uses hCG levels
12 alone to diagnose ectopic pregnancy?

13 A. They have an algorithm, but I would have to review the
14 algorithm when you say hCG alone.

15 Q. So I'll just point you to paragraph 62 of your
16 declaration.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. So it says they falsely claim that hCG levels alone
19 can be used to diagnose an ectopic, is that right?

20 A. So I'm talking about what the witnesses say with
21 protocols using Mifepristone and Misoprostol that are
22 inconsistent with practice guideline 193. So when I say using
23 it alone, they're not using an ultrasound with it.

24 Q. Okay. Got it. So in your declaration discussion of
25 the IUP -- the intrauterine pregnancy requirement, you rely

1 heavily on ACOG'S practice bulletin on tubal ectopic pregnancy,
2 is that right?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. And I believe the document you cite in your
5 declaration is Practice Bulletin 191, isn't that right?

6 A. Yes. They did an update and I did not include that
7 update, but I have reviewed 193, which is actually -- I think
8 they updated it two months after and I did 191.

9 Q. From what you remember, how does the update differ
10 from the protocol you cite -- I'm sorry, from the bulletin you
11 cite in your declaration?

12 A. I have it. Let me look. I have both of them.

13 Q. I'm just going to ask you generally what you remember,
14 because we don't have that as a cited document in your
15 declaration. So if you remember and if you don't, that's fine.

16 A. I think there is -- I don't remember exactly. It was
17 just on one page they clarified something, but I honestly --
18 without looking at it I can't tell you exactly what that
19 paragraph said.

20 Q. But generally speaking do you stand by, you know, the
21 discussion of intrauterine pregnancy and ectopic pregnancy
22 that's in your declaration?

23 A. Yes, I do.

24 MR. BOYLE: We have been going for about an
25 hour. If you're getting close to the end, we don't need to

1 break. But if you're going to go for more than, say, 15
2 minutes I would request a break, please.

3 MS. SALVADOR: Yeah, we can break now. We're
4 going to talk about the bulletin, but we can do that after we
5 come back.

6 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: We are now going off the
7 video record. The time is 5:29 p.m.

8 (A break was taken.)

9 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: We are now back on the
10 video record. The time is 5:40 p.m.

11 BY MS. SALVADOR:

12 Q. Okay. Dr. Bane, we were discussing ACOG's practice
13 bulletin on tubal ectopic pregnancy. According to the bulletin
14 the minimum diagnostic evaluation of a suspected ectopic
15 pregnancy is a transvaginal ultrasound evaluation to confirm
16 the pregnancy, is that right?

17 A. Can I just get the document?

18 Q. Sure.

19 MS. SALVADOR: For the folks on Zoom, I am
20 dropping the document into the chat. Attempting to drop the
21 document into the chat. I'm dropping the document into the
22 chat and then can we please have it marked as an exhibit and
23 then Dr. Bane can just confirm that we're looking at the same
24 thing.

25 - - -

1 (Document marked as Exhibit-BB for
2 identification.)

— — —

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, we are.

5 BY MS. SALVADOR:

6 Q. Okay. On this document is the ACOG bulletin that we
7 have been discussing, correct?

8 MR. BOYLE: Object to form.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 BY MS. SALVADOR:

11 Q. It's the ACOG Practice Bulletin 191 on tubal ectopic
12 pregnancy, is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. So if you go to page E66. Let me know when
15 you're there.

16 A. I'm there.

17 Q. So there's a heading that says Clinical Considerations
18 and Recommendations. And then there's a subheading that says
19 how is an ectopic pregnancy diagnosed. And then the first
20 sentence right after that is the minimum diagnostic evaluation
21 of a suspected ectopic pregnancy is a transvaginal ultrasound
22 evaluation and confirmation of pregnancy, is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you agree that that statement is discussing the
25 evaluation of a suspected ectopic pregnancy?

1 A. So consistent with what I said before, yes, it has the
2 word suspected and because on page E65 of the same bulletin
3 under risk factors it says one half of all women who receive a
4 diagnosis of an ectopic do not have known risk factors. As a
5 clinician who really wants my patients to be safe, every single
6 one of them is a suspected IUP until I have confirmed
7 otherwise. I will honestly tell you that every woman that
8 walks in my door now and in the past I needed to know where her
9 pregnancy was because of the risk of death of an ectopic.

10 Q. But the bulletin itself doesn't directly say that a
11 transvaginal ultrasound evaluation is required when an ectopic
12 pregnancy is not suspected, correct?

13 A. So it's speaking about how do we take care of our
14 patients with -- associated with tubal ectopics. And so, you
15 know, it starts off with the background, risk factors,
16 epidemiology, and then it gives us our clinical
17 recommendations. And included in that very clearly is that an
18 ultrasound is central to that, as well as following hCG levels.
19 But an ultrasound is central to it.

20 Q. But the clinical -- actually, strike that. So in your
21 career, in your medical practice, did you perform ultrasounds?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. How early in pregnancy would you perform ultrasounds?

24 A. So, you know, a lot of it depended on the clinical
25 scenario. But if she was coming in for just confirmation of

1 gestational age, we can usually do a crown rump length about
2 five weeks and five days. So five to six weeks would be the
3 earliest. But, you know, so -- so that's in that clinical
4 scenario. I may do -- I may do it at a different time, you
5 know, in a different scenario. But the earliest I can usually
6 confirm a documented IUP with an embryo is going to be five to
7 six weeks. We know that if you see a gestational sac that also
8 has a yolk sac in it, that's also -- and you can see that
9 before -- like earlier in the five weeks, that's also very
10 reassuring that you don't have an ectopic pregnancy. You may
11 not have a viable pregnancy if you only see the yolk sac,
12 meaning you haven't confirmed fetal heart rate or seen the
13 embryo, yeah.

14 Q. Did it ever occur in your medical practice where a
15 patient had a positive pregnancy test but an ultrasound did not
16 detect a pregnancy?

17 A. Sure. Meaning we did an ultrasound and we didn't see
18 anything?

19 Q. That's right.

20 A. Yes. So that would be that pregnancy of unknown
21 location.

22 Q. So what would your next step be in treating such a
23 patient?

24 A. It would basically be if -- if she were coming in and
25 she had a positive pregnancy test and she was completely

1 asymptomatic and she, you know, was just there for prenatal
2 care, we would typically wait until she was six to seven weeks
3 and do an ultrasound at that point. If she was coming in with
4 a complaint then we would -- depending on the complaint. But
5 if it was a complaint that for example, abdominal pain or some
6 bleeding, you know, depending on how far along she was, we
7 would do an ultrasound potentially then and then do hCG levels,
8 so draw blood.

9 Q. And would you refer that patient to the emergency
10 room?

11 A. No. I would usually manage her. I would refer her to
12 the emergency room if I thought that she had -- if she was
13 unstable or she potentially needed to be observed in the
14 hospital. If she needed to have surgery. But that's not the
15 clinical scenario I gave you. So that's why I would say no.
16 But, yeah, if she was unstable and/or she was -- you know, I
17 was worried that she had a ruptured ectopic at that moment,
18 most definitely I would.

19 Q. So you shifted over to talking about a patient who was
20 unstable, but before that you were talking about a patient who
21 was stable. So for those stable patients, would you recommend
22 that they return to your clinic for followup?

23 A. Most definitely we would follow their hCG levels and
24 get what are called serial hCG levels. We would also do a
25 repeat ultrasound.

1 Q. Did it ever happen that those patients didn't show up
2 for followup at the schedule you recommended?

3 A. I can't -- I can't picture -- think of a patient off
4 the top of my head. I was also in a large practice where
5 sometimes they didn't follow up with the same person, but if I
6 had somebody that I was following up, I would make sure that,
7 you know, I was coordinating her care with one of my partners.
8 There's not a patient that I -- that jumps out because you
9 don't sleep. I mean, you're taught early in your ob rotations
10 that a woman that you're concerned with a high level of
11 suspicion for an ectopic you don't go to sleep on because she
12 might go to sleep and die. So those are the women that I'm
13 following very closely. But I can't tell you about a patient
14 who didn't come back, off the top of my head.

15 Q. So what happens if an ectopic pregnancy ruptures?

16 A. So if an ectopic pregnancy ruptures a woman will --
17 and I'll say from let's say a tubal pregnancy -- she will
18 typically have pain. We have two tubes, a left and a right.
19 So sometimes that pain is one-sided. It can become in her
20 entire abdomen though because she will start to bleed and she
21 can actually fill her abdomen with blood and blood is very
22 irritating to the peritoneal lining. And she can have just
23 generalized abdominal pain. She can also -- if she's like
24 filling her abdomen with blood she can actually get blood under
25 the diaphragm that irritates the diaphragm and can even have

1 referred shoulder pain. Those are the women that have a high
2 risk of dying because our abdomen has the ability to hold an
3 awful lot of blood. Some of the women will have some bleeding
4 but it's usually not heavy, heavy bleeding like a miscarriage
5 type of bleeding. But they can complain of spotting too.

6 Q. Got it. So you said a lot just there. So I'm going
7 to ask about some details of what you just said.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. So you mentioned that the pain typically starts as a
10 sharp pain on one side of the abdomen, is that right?

11 A. So, I mean, I have seen it present in lots of
12 different ways. But when a woman comes into me, she's got pain
13 on one side or the other, you know, my differential diagnosis
14 -- and I know she's pregnant, you know, it can be appendicitis,
15 it can be a ruptured ovarian cyst. If I haven't confirmed an
16 intrauterine pregnancy it can be an ectopic pregnancy. And it
17 usually, I would say, is one-sided, but I have seen it present
18 with just lower abdominal pain. I'm absolutely amazed -- and
19 maybe this is judgemental on my part because I feel like I know
20 my body really well -- how poorly some women and men, my
21 husband being one, to try to describe like is this muscle pain,
22 is this a different type of pain. And so, you know, I am going
23 to assume it's an ectopic if I have a pregnancy of unknown
24 location until otherwise proven.

25 Q. I got it. Thank you. And would those -- would

1 patients suffering -- I'm sorry, let me rephrase that. So
2 would that pain typically be a sharp pain or more of like a
3 cramping type of pain?

4 A. So I have heard women describe it as both. But I do
5 think one-sided sharp pain is a presentation I would get for
6 sure. But I have also heard women talk about cramping pain.
7 When I hear them say sharp pain, you know, it perks my ears up
8 to an ectopic. But my concern is that it presents not just in
9 one way, from my clinical experience. And so I can't
10 differentiate out blood in the abdomen, it fills the abdomen
11 can feel different for different people.

12 Q. Got it. And would somebody suffering ectopic rupture
13 ever feel a popping sensation or anything like that?

14 A. You know, I have actually not had a woman use that
15 terminology with me. I have heard people with appendicitis
16 after it ruptures actually for a little bit have a sense of
17 relief, but I -- I honestly have never had anyone describe it
18 as popping.

19 Q. And you mentioned that there is bleeding and I -- I
20 don't want to put words in your mouth. I think you
21 characterized it as mostly internal bleeding at first, is that
22 right?

23 A. No, not necessarily at first. A woman can come into
24 me and have spotting, bleeding and not have a ruptured ectopic
25 at that point. She may have a small amount of bleeding and we

1 can actually look on ultrasound. That's one of the things you
2 can look for. It talks about this in Practice Bulletin 191,
3 ultrasound finding of fluid in the cul-de-sac. So the
4 cul-de-sac is kind of in the lower part of the pelvis behind
5 the uterus and -- so when I see blood in the cul-de-sac, which
6 is in the abdomen, so not coming out the vagina but inside the
7 woman's peritoneal cavity, that I have to pay attention to when
8 I see it. Sometimes you can have a ruptured ovarian cyst that
9 can cause that and sometimes a little bit can be normal to see.
10 But if I have a woman who is -- I'm concerned about with
11 asymptomatic and I see that on the ultrasound, I don't see an
12 intrauterine pregnancy, even if I don't see a mass in the
13 adnexa, the adnexa would be the left and right side of the
14 lower pelvis, but I see fluid in the cul-de-sac, that would
15 concern me for some blood there. But in terms of vaginal
16 bleeding, women can have spotting, but they can have a little
17 bit of heavier bleeding. But it is true that I'd characterize
18 the bleeding of a miscarriage, the soaking pads I don't see as
19 much in ectopic as I see in miscarriages.

20 Q. Got it. Thank you. Would it surprise you to learn
21 that PPSAT does not provide medication abortion if a patient
22 has not had an ultrasound?

23 A. Say that one more time.

24 Q. Sure. Would it surprise you to learn that PPSAT
25 doesn't provide medication abortion if a patient hasn't had an

1 ultrasound?

2 A. You're doing a double negative there and we're on the
3 fourth hour.

4 Q. Sure.

5 A. Ask me that one more time at the end. Doesn't and
6 doesn't it you said.

7 Q. Sure. I'll ask it the other way. Would it surprise
8 you to learn that all of PPSAT's medication abortion patients
9 have had ultrasounds before receiving the medication abortion?

10 A. Would it surprise me? I would have expected them to
11 all have had them to confirm an IUD -- IUP because it's
12 contraindicated to use Mifepristone and Misoprostol without
13 excluding an IUP. That's straight from the prescribing
14 information from the FDA, that you have -- you have to exclude
15 it. So I was very surprised when I received their protocols
16 and they actually do that. And I read in Dr. Farris I think is
17 where I read it first. I was very surprised that they do that.

18 Q. So we're going to change gears a little bit here and
19 we're going to go to your current work.

20 A. Oh, okay.

21 Q. So you're a member of the National Medical Advisory
22 Board of Care Net, is that right?

23 A. I am. And I'm at the Care Net conference right now.

24 Q. So what is Care Net?

25 A. Care Net is a Christian organization that helps

1 support men and women who face an unplanned pregnancy with
2 resources to help them know that they can choose life. So
3 life-affirming choices.

4 Q. So what is Care Net's position on abortion?

5 A. Induced abortion is never indicated.

6 Q. What are your duties as a member of Care Net's
7 national medical and advisory board entail?

8 A. The national medical director of the board is Dr.
9 Sandy Christiansen and she will ask our opinions regarding
10 maybe language that is clear -- this is an organization that
11 helps the thousands of Pregnancy Centers across the country
12 provide exceptional care to our clients and patients. Many of
13 those organizations -- all the organizations started as really
14 client advocacy -- helping with those socioeconomic barriers
15 for women. But in I think it was the '90s they began also
16 having medical clinics. And so those of us on the medical
17 board help to guide centers who have medical clinics.

18 Q. So you mentioned that you're at the Care Net national
19 conference right now, right?

20 A. I am, in Mobile, Alabama.

21 Q. I think you mentioned that you lead a couple of
22 breakout sessions, is that right?

23 A. Yes. Yesterday I did one on diversity, equity and
24 inclusion in Pregnancy Centers and today I did it on stress,
25 burnout, compassion, satisfaction, compassion fatigue.

1 Q. And according to your C.V. you gave a keynote
2 presentation at the Care Net national conference last year, is
3 that right?

4 A. Well, I got COVID and didn't get to come. So -- but
5 they prerecorded it and -- what did I -- what was it on? I
6 can't remember the exact title. But yes, they did show my
7 prerecorded talk.

8 Q. So your C.V. says the title was the Science of
9 Decisionmaking, Implications for Pregnancy Centers, is that
10 right?

11 A. Yeah. That rings a bell now. Thank you.

12 Q. Do you remember whether that presentation discussed
13 abortion?

14 A. Okay. Let me think through. So a big part of it was
15 really looking at -- yeah. I mean, it did. But I would have
16 to go back to that to look at the details of it. But yes,
17 there was -- it was -- the big picture of healthcare in general
18 and our role as -- like really healthcare practitioners, our
19 role of -- we're really journeying with these women. We are
20 partnering with them. They bring their own life experiences.
21 They bring their expertise and their own bodies and we bring
22 medical expertise to the table. And it's not our job to make
23 their decision. It's not our job to -- they're not broken.
24 It's not our job to try to fix them. It's not our job to judge
25 them should they choose abortion. It's really our job to

1 empower them with information and to really partner with them.
2 And so I brought up a lot of concepts. I trained I think it
3 was '21/'22 at Duke Divinity School. I completed a
4 certification in theology medicine and culture looking at the
5 intersection of religion and medicine and a lot of what I
6 shared were some of the concepts I learned there.

7 Q. Got it. Thank you. And you're currently the medical
8 director of three different organizations, is that right?

9 A. Three different Pregnancy Centers.

10 Q. Okay. Could you name those three Pregnancy Centers,
11 please.

12 A. Sure. So Choices Women's Center is in Wilson, North
13 Carolina. And Albemarle Pregnancy Resource Center and Clinic
14 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. And then Waterlife
15 Pregnancy Center which is in the Outer Banks in North Carolina.

16 Q. Got it. Thanks. And all three of those Pregnancy
17 Centers are affiliated with Care Net, is that right?

18 A. They are.

19 Q. So that means that they all have to sign a Care Net
20 affiliation agreement, is that right?

21 A. They do.

22 MS. SALVADOR: So I am dropping a document into
23 the chat and then if we could please mark it as an exhibit.

24 - - -

25 (Document marked as Exhibit-CC for

1 identification.)

2 - - -

3 BY MS. SALVADOR:

4 Q. Dr. Bane, let me know when you have this pulled up.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. Are you familiar with this document?

7 A. I am familiar. I'm not sure if it's the exact one
8 that all three of the centers sign. I'd have to look at it. I
9 don't know how old this one is.

10 Q. Sure. But this document is a Care Net affiliation
11 agreement, is that right?

12 A. That's its title, yes.

13 Q. And all three of the Pregnancy Centers you work at
14 would have signed some version of this agreement, is that
15 right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And are they required to remain in compliance with the
18 agreement they signed in order to remain affiliated with Care
19 Net?

20 A. That would be my assumption. I have never known --
21 been involved in a practice that, like, Care Net kicked out.

22 Q. Got it. So number one on the document states the
23 Pregnancy Center concurs with each and every affirmation set
24 forth in the statement of faith attached hereto and
25 incorporated herein by reference. The Pregnancy Center will

1 not engage the services of any board member, director, or
2 volunteer who does not concur with each and every such
3 affirmation.

4 Did I read that correctly?

5 A. You did.

6 Q. And so did all three of the Pregnancy Centers where
7 you work concur with the statement of faith?

8 A. I know the one in Wilson did. I honestly don't know
9 about the other two in terms of -- I would assume they did
10 since they're affiliated with Care Net. But I cannot -- I have
11 not laid my eyes on this document.

12 Q. I understand. But all three -- you said all three are
13 Care Net affiliates, right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you have no reason to believe that they did not
16 sign something like this?

17 A. Correct.

18 MS. SALVADOR: So I am dropping another
19 document into the chat. The file name is Care Net Statement of
20 Faith. Please mark it as an exhibit and then, Dr. Bane, let me
21 know when you have it open.

22 - - -

23 (Document marked as Exhibit-DD for
24 identification.)

25 - - -

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 BY MS. SALVADOR:

3 Q. Okay. Do you recognize this document?

4 A. Let me read it.

5 Q. Sure.

6 (Pause.)

7 A. I do recognize it.

8 Q. So what is this document?

9 A. Care Net Statement of Faith.

10 Q. So all three of the Pregnancy Centers where you work
11 have certified that they concur with the Statement of Faith, is
12 that right?

13 A. I can only speak specifically for Wilson because I
14 have not had a conversation about Care Net -- the executive
15 director's decision to be a Care Net-affiliated center. I have
16 spoken directly with my center before I signed this. I am
17 Catholic and number one, we believe the bible to be the
18 inspired and only infallible authoritative word of God in the
19 Catholic Church. The Catholic Church also believes in oral
20 tradition of their early church fathers. And so I think this
21 is a very strong document from an Evangelical Christian
22 perspective. And so I shared that I thought it could be less
23 than inclusive for Catholic Christians.

24 Q. Okay. Got it. So is that why you disagreed with --
25 I'm sorry. Did you say that you disagreed with the Wilson

1 Center's decision to become a Care Net affiliate?

2 A. No. No. No. No. I just said that I have some
3 concerns with how this is written as a Catholic Christian. I
4 think Care Net is a wonderful organization. It has -- does
5 many wonderful things. I think it comes from a more narrow
6 perspective. I even -- you know, before I agreed to be on the
7 board I thought long and hard about it. I prayed about it. I
8 talked to Dr. Christiansen who she actually had me speak to a
9 priest who -- a Catholic priest regarding it. And so at first
10 glance I did have some reservations, but then I felt
11 comfortable afterwards.

12 Q. Got it. Thank you.

13 A. You're welcome.

14 Q. And so let's go back to the Care Net affiliation
15 agreement.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Do you still have that document up?

18 A. I'm pretty sure it's this one right here. Statement
19 of Faith. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And so number two says the Pregnancy Center
21 agrees to fully comply with each and every standard set forth
22 in the Standards of Affiliation for Pregnancy Centers, attached
23 hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

24 Did I read that correctly?

25 A. You did.

1 Q. Okay.

2 MS. SALVADOR: So I am dropping a document into
3 the chat. Please mark it as an exhibit and then, Dr. Bane, let
4 me know when you have it open.

5 - - -

6 (Document marked as Exhibit-EE for
7 identification.)

8 - - -

9 THE WITNESS: I have it open.

10 BY MS. SALVADOR:

11 Q. Do you recognize this document?

12 A. Give me just a second.

13 Q. Sure.

14 (Pause.)

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. So do you recognize this document?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. Are these the Standards of Affiliation that are
19 referenced in the affiliation agreement that we were
20 discussing?

21 A. Yes, they are.

22 Q. So do the three Pregnancy Centers where you work
23 comply with these Standards of Affiliation?

24 A. There was nothing I read that was a red flag to me.
25 The one related to contraception, we don't provide

1 contraception at all from the standpoint of like I used to do
2 in private practice. When we have a woman come in and she has
3 -- let's say she wants a pregnancy test and she's not pregnant,
4 then we have a handout for her that includes her options, as
5 well as resources in our community for contraception. But I
6 don't particularly prescribe contraception at the Pregnancy
7 Center.

8 Q. So are -- looking at number six on the document.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. It says the Pregnancy Center does not recommend,
11 provide or refer single people for contraceptives. Married
12 women and men seeking contraceptive information should be urged
13 to seek counsel along with their spouses from their pastor
14 and/or physician. Is that what you're referring to?

15 A. I was referring to the first sentence is what I was
16 talking about. I have had discussions related to Care Net's
17 single versus married and -- but I also recognize that as --
18 because we don't even do contraception there, I was comfortable
19 signing this knowing that -- and I'll tell you, when I first
20 started working there as a contracted doctor -- I used to
21 volunteer, now I'm a contracted doctor -- I had to work really
22 hard to advocate for my patients to even get a handout I
23 developed related to contraception and being able to, you know,
24 have the health department information on there and things like
25 that. And they had to check with Care Net and make sure it was

1 in compliance. So, you know, as I said before, I love this
2 organization, but I do push back on some things.

3 Q. Do you know why the Care Net standards of affiliation
4 make a distinction between single and married had people?

5 A. Yeah. Because of the desire for abstinence in single
6 people.

7 Q. In your opinion and experience of your medical
8 practice, can an unmarried woman ever have a healthy sexual
9 relationship?

10 MR. BOYLE: Objection.

11 THE WITNESS: Boy, that was a loaded question.
12 I do think there are consequences of being sexually active for
13 all of us, whether we're married or not. But particularly with
14 single I do think there's literature that shows that sexual --
15 sexual risk avoidance, not just reduction is very effective.
16 And so -- what I do is once again what I said earlier about
17 that partnership between the woman and I'm not living in her
18 lived experience, but I don't want to ever do anything that is
19 potentially going to harm one of my patients. And so if it's a
20 single woman who is sexually active, I'm not just going to
21 blindly give her contraception. I'm talking to her about, you
22 know, her risk factors for sexually transmitted infections,
23 what is her sexual behavior, is this somebody she's been with
24 for a long time and they have a monogamous relationship where
25 there's a lot of trust built in. And I also know that men and

1 women fall hard and they hurt hard when they break up. And so,
2 you know, I -- kind of like earlier with the multifactorial
3 nature of studies, I know that there are many different factors
4 related to the choice to become sexually active.

5 BY MS. SALVADOR:

6 Q. Got it. Thank you for clarifying that. Going to
7 number one on the Standards of Affiliation document. It states
8 that the primary mission of the pregnancy center is to share
9 the compassion, hope, and help of Jesus Chris, both in word and
10 deed, with those facing pregnancy decisions. The pregnancy
11 center is equally committed to sharing the gospel of salvation
12 through Jesus Christ with those that serve.

13 Did I read that correctly?

14 A. Yes, you did.

15 Q. Is that statement true for the three pregnancy centers
16 where you work?

17 MR. BOYLE: Objection.

18 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So I believe that love is
19 a verb and we are clearly Christian pregnancy centers. And so
20 I believe that when you love others you're willing their good
21 and it's -- it is doing good for people. I believe that you
22 can meet this statement without ever mentioning the word Jesus.
23 And you -- you can love people the way Christ loved. I think
24 that when you look at -- in the literature with medicine when
25 -- about 60 percent of people at least in the psychiatry

1 literature are in a crisis and this -- in their case it's a
2 mental health crisis, but you can make some inferences, they
3 want a healthcare practitioner who wants to talk about
4 spirituality. So I will talk about that. I will sometimes
5 pray with people if they want me to, but I -- I know they're
6 there for a medical appointment when they're seeing me. And
7 remember, we have two sides of the house. We have this -- the
8 medical side of the house and so I integrate spirituality in
9 that. But my goal -- they're in the middle of a challenge and
10 I want to respect that they -- whatever their faith is, whether
11 they're Christian or not, if spirituality is going to help them
12 through that challenge, I want to encourage them in that way.
13 The client advocacy side where they provide -- connect them
14 with community partners and services they may need like
15 subsidized daycare and the parenting classes, those are where I
16 think this statement really lies and the recognition that these
17 women are often scared and alone, sometimes being coerced, and
18 maybe they were -- they grew up in a church and they are
19 disconnected. And so like how could a church walk alongside
20 them and help them. So I think, you know, yes, this is an
21 extremely strong Evangelical statement, but it's not like we
22 have something that says everybody must leave with a gospel
23 pamphlet.

24 Q. Right. So the statement -- the Standards of
25 Affiliation, I'm sorry, referred to sharing the gospel of

1 salvation through Jesus Christ. So what does that mean on the
2 medical side as you described it as two sides?

3 A. Yeah. I mean, on the medical side it's really being
4 the hands, the feet, the eyes of Jesus. Which is loving people
5 in a way that -- like when they leave I want them to know
6 whatever their choice is, my door is always open. And we will
7 never judge them. And so it's in our actions. It's how we
8 care for them, how we respect them, how we love them as we're,
9 you know, providing information for them. And, you know, if as
10 part of the conversation, which it doesn't happen every time,
11 you know, some of them will say like without me even prompting
12 them -- I mean, I have had women say everything from I'm going
13 to hell for murdering my child, I have had them say I know God
14 is going to be so mad at me, things like that, and I try to
15 really meet them where they are and help them realize no,
16 you're not murdering your child and you're trying to make the
17 best decision at this moment that you think for yourself and I
18 hope it can be a life-affirming decision for you. But don't
19 own that.

20 Q. Are the pregnancy centers where you work subject to
21 any form of regulation by a health agency?

22 A. So we -- we have -- in the State of North Carolina we
23 have -- we actually don't have to follow HIPAA guidelines like
24 the way my other practice did. I think that should change, to
25 be honest. We're a medical clinic and we should follow HIPAA

1 guidelines and I am very strict about that. Everybody is HIPAA
2 trained. We have medical policies and procedures that I'm in
3 the middle of -- because I'm just starting to work with the
4 other centers and I'm updating ours. I think our standards
5 should be exceptional.

6 Q. So the pregnancy centers where you work are not
7 inspected by any sort of state agency?

8 A. Not that I am aware of. I think they should be. But
9 I don't think in North Carolina that we have that.

10 Q. What medical training are Pregnancy Center staff
11 required to have -- the ones who have medical duties that is?

12 A. Yeah. I mean, they have to have some sort of medical
13 license. So I have everything from nurses to medical
14 assistants to ultrasonographers, RDMSs in the three different
15 centers. So they have to stay licensed according to what their
16 particular license is, their scope of practice. We do HIPAA
17 training regularly. We do OSHA training. We do CPR training.
18 That's all that can come to my mind right now.

19 Q. Thanks. That's really helpful. So going to number
20 four on the Standards of Affiliation document.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. It says the pregnancy center does not perform or refer
23 for abortion and provides a written disclaimer to this effect
24 to clients requesting services.

25 Did I read that correctly?

1 A. You did.

2 Q. Is that statement true for the Pregnancy Centers where
3 you work?

4 A. We don't have a written disclaimer. I have never had
5 a patient request something like that, so I'm not sure, to be
6 honest, what that's all about. But we do not perform or refer
7 for induced abortions.

8 Q. Are the Pregnancy Centers where you work open with
9 clients about their position on abortion?

10 A. So we are not -- when you say open, could you define?
11 What do you mean by that? We're open to our clients about our
12 position. Do we tell them? Make statements?

13 Q. Yeah. Do you tell them about your position on
14 abortion?

15 A. Yes. So they know that we do not perform abortions.
16 It's on our Website and the people who answer the phone who are
17 trained to let them know that. They also know that when I
18 counsel them and give them an informed consent I say to them my
19 hope is you can choose a life-affirming choice for your child
20 and yourself, but I recognize that's your decision and not
21 mine.

22 Q. Thank you. And how do you split your time between the
23 three pregnancy centers where you work?

24 A. Yeah. So I am in Wilson, North Carolina, about an
25 hour east of Raleigh. And I am there actually Tuesdays,

1 Wednesdays, and Thursdays for about half a day each on average.
2 And then in the Outer Banks in Nags Head I physically go there
3 once a month, but I talk to them most days when they have a
4 patient who's getting an ultrasound. And I'm available if they
5 -- the ultrasonographer needs to talk to me. I just last week
6 had -- we had a patient who was coming in and she had a 12-week
7 intrauterine pregnancy, but the baby looked like it had some
8 very significant skeletal abnormalities. And so as the patient
9 was in one room the ultrasonographer reached out to me and
10 electronically we looked at the pictures together and then I
11 gave the staff recommendation on followup so that she could get
12 an ultrasound and see an ob-gyn at the practice. So I'm
13 available. None of the centers are open on weekends. They're
14 Monday through Friday if they need consults. And then I also
15 -- I try to read all scans within 24 hours.

16 Q. Got it. So for that patient you just mentioned, I
17 just want to make sure I understand what you said. So you
18 ended up referring that patient to an ob-gyn, is that correct?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. Okay. So you refer them out of the pregnancy center,
21 is that right?

22 A. Yes. We don't do prenatal care or deliveries in terms
23 of the -- the biggest thing that we try to do is if a woman
24 decides to carry her pregnancy often times because of shortages
25 in healthcare practitioners, especially in rural eastern North

1 Carolina, we may have some gaps so sometimes we really try to
2 facilitate if she needs to see a maternal-fetal medicine
3 specialist. So we do referrals. We just don't do referrals
4 for induced abortion. As I said earlier in my testimony I have
5 a maternal and a fetal patient and I want health and wholeness
6 for both of them. So referral for ending the life of one of
7 them is not a part of medicine.

8 Q. So understanding that you don't refer patients to
9 pregnancy centers for induced abortions, do you ever talk to
10 them about induced abortions?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. What types of things do you say in those
13 conversations?

14 A. So I usually -- I ask their permission and if they
15 want to talk, what information they would like and I say would
16 you like to know about the different types of abortion. And so
17 I may explain the difference in a medication/chemical abortion
18 and a surgical abortion. And then I will talk to them about
19 risks related from a medical perspective, things that we have
20 talked about today.

21 Q. Have you ever received a complaint from a patient at
22 the pregnancy centers where you work?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Has any of the centers where you work ever received a
25 complaint related to how they handle abortion counseling?

1 A. Not that I -- since I have been the medical director
2 of the three. There could have been something before that I'm
3 unaware of.

4 Q. Got it. I think we're basically done here. So why
5 don't we just take a brief break and then we'll come back.
6 I'll ask a few more questions if I have them, which I might
7 not, and then your counsel will have the opportunity to ask
8 questions. So why don't we just take a -- how about a
9 five-minute break. Does that work?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes. Thank you.

11 MS. SALVADOR: Sorry. Let's go off the record.

12 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: We are now going off the
13 video record. The time is 6:29 p.m.

14 (A break was taken.)

15 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: We are now back on the
16 video record. The time is 6:36 p.m.

17 BY MS. SALVADOR:

18 Q. Dr. Bane, are you the only ob-gyn who is employed by
19 those three pregnancy centers where you work?

20 A. I am.

21 Q. Okay. And that's -- so that's all I have on the
22 Pregnancy Centers. And then just going back, you mentioned
23 that you completed a witness training through ACOG, is that
24 right?

25 A. Yes, that one-day course.

1 Q. Did you review any materials from that training to
2 prepare for this deposition?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay.

5 MS. SALVADOR: I don't have any further
6 questions.

7 MR. BOYLE: Okay. Thank you. If it's all
8 right, I'll go ahead.

9 BY MR. BOYLE:

10 Q. This is Ellis Boyle. I represent the legislative
11 leaders, Speaker Moore and Senator Berger. Doctor, thank you
12 for your time today. I have a few questions. You said in your
13 testimony in that last hour that Mifepristone and Misoprostol are
14 contraindicated until you exclude an intrauterine pregnancy.
15 And I think you may have mixed up your wording a little bit and
16 I want to give you an opportunity to clarify that if you want
17 to. Did you mean that Mifepristone and Misoprostol are
18 contraindicated until you would exclude an ectopic pregnancy
19 instead of the IUP?

20 A. Okay. So it's Misoprostol, so I think that's what
21 you're talking about, Mifepristone and Misoprostol. So yeah, the
22 FDA, their prescribing information, if I said it wrong, what I
23 meant to say is that they state that you have to exclude an
24 ectopic pregnancy before giving the medication.

25 Q. Okay. Do you agree that it is safer to suspect every

1 patient who tests positive for pregnancy has an ectopic
2 pregnancy until you can rule that out?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If you have a patient who tests positive for pregnancy
5 and has an ultrasound that does not show either an ectopic
6 pregnancy or an intrauterine pregnancy, so it's a pregnancy of
7 an unknown location on that ultrasound finding, what would you
8 say the safest way is to treat that patient?

9 A. I have had many patients over the years that are in
10 that situation and I -- we do a combination of serial hCG
11 levels, so lab work, and then a repeat ultrasound.

12 Q. Why would you do the repeat ultrasound?

13 A. To document an IUP hopefully, but also to rule out
14 ectopic pregnancy.

15 Q. If you take an ultrasound of a patient who tested
16 positive for pregnancy and it neither shows the IUP nor an
17 ectopic pregnancy, so again, it's an ultrasound that shows a
18 pregnancy of unknown location, does that lower or increase your
19 suspicion that that patient has an ectopic pregnancy?

20 A. So it increases my suspicion because I would want, as
21 I have said earlier, to have diagnostic certainty in something
22 that is potentially fatal, which ectopic pregnancies can be.

23 Q. Doctor, if I can direct you to a couple of the
24 exhibits that you were asked questions about. First, I believe
25 it's Exhibit-Q. And, Madam Court Reporter, if you could tell

1 me if I'm correct, this would be the CDC's maternal mortality
2 rates in the United States for 2021. I believe that's
3 Exhibit-Q.

4 A. I'm going to have to find that. Just a second.

5 Q. Well, that's what I'm talking about, Exhibit-Q,
6 correct?

7 COURT REPORTER: I don't know.

8 MR. BOYLE: Okay. Well, that's what I'm
9 talking about and I think it's Q. We'll correct it after the
10 fact, if necessary.

11 THE WITNESS: Is it the 2021 mortality rates?

12 MR. BOYLE: Yes. That's correct.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay.

14 BY MR. BOYLE:

15 Q. So as I understand it, when you were asked questions
16 about these maternal mortality rates from the CDC in 2021, am I
17 correct in saying that these are maternal mortality rates not
18 specifically related to abortion but just for all maternal
19 mortality in the United States?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Okay. And then if I can direct you to what I believe
22 again is Exhibit-R, which would be the North Carolina 2016
23 maternal mortality review report. If you let me know when you
24 get there, please.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. Do you have that one up?

2 A. No. I'm sorry.

3 Q. Okay. Let me know.

4 A. Okay. Yes, I have it up.

5 Q. And I believe you were asked questions on page 11 of
6 that document. Do you see page 11?

7 A. I'm getting there. Yes.

8 Q. Again, I believe you were asked questions about this
9 page and these numbers at that chart on the bottom. And I just
10 want to clarify again, are these numbers in that chart that
11 represent maternal mortality in the State of North Carolina for
12 these various years, are they specific to abortion or are they
13 just general maternal mortality?

14 A. Let me look at the chart here. Overall. Pregnancy
15 mortality ratio. So they are for all deaths, not just deaths
16 related to abortion.

17 Q. Right. So all maternal death, not the specific
18 question that you were asked later about the CDC numbers, which
19 were the abortion-related maternal mortality, right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Let me direct you to what I believe is Exhibit-S,
22 which is the CDC mortality -- morbidity and mortality weekly
23 report from November 2022. This is the abortion surveillance
24 for the United States in 2020. Please let me know when you
25 have got that up and go to page 27.

1 A. Actually it was still on page 27.

2 Q. There you go. So you were asked questions about this
3 exhibit and it was represented that this table on page 27 for
4 the 2013 to 2019 abortion-related maternal mortality was .43 or
5 43 deaths per 100,000 I believe, is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And this question wasn't asked, but I want you to
8 please look at the asterisk and look at the little small print
9 there at the bottom of this chart and tell me if I'm reading
10 this particular part of that correctly, quote, because a
11 substantial number of legal induced abortions occurred outside
12 reporting areas that provided data to CDC, national CFRs, i.e.
13 number of legal induced abortion-related deaths per 100,000
14 reported legal induced abortions in the United States, were
15 calculated with denominator data from the Guttmacher
16 Institute's national survey of abortion-providing facilities,
17 end quote. Did I read that sentence properly?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And what does that sentence tell or inform your
20 opinions in this case, please?

21 A. They're consistent with my opinions in my declaration
22 that we don't have accurate information on the number of
23 legal-induced abortions. So our -- it's difficult for us to
24 really know the true and accurate number of complications and
25 deaths.

1 Q. Okay. And does the fact that they don't have accurate
2 data of actual abortion deaths from places that just didn't
3 give it to the CDC and then they use the Guttmacher Institute's
4 number as the denominator, does that impact what you think
5 those numbers might reflect in this chart?

6 A. Well, I mean, I think I said earlier that your
7 conclusions that you draw are only as accurate as the
8 information you're drawing them from. And so I think a
9 consistent message that I have had is that we don't do a good
10 job because we have this voluntary reporting. And, you know,
11 the fact that the CDC is having to rely on someone else's data
12 is concerning. It's not surprising because if you look at the
13 number of abortions reported between Guttmacher and the CDC,
14 they differ vastly. So we have got to do a better job if we're
15 going to truly understand and keep women safe.

16 Q. And you say the Guttmacher number is different. Isn't
17 it much larger than the CDC number?

18 A. Yes, it is much larger.

19 Q. So if you have underreporting of the actual deaths on
20 the voluntary information provided on that side and then you
21 have an overinflation on the denominator from the Guttmacher,
22 what does that tell you about your opinion about that actual
23 number in this chart?

24 A. You're going to have to repeat that. Sorry.

25 Q. Yes. So you have underreporting of that number of

1 actual deaths on the top of the division, right, the numerator?
2 Because the CDC is not getting all those deaths, is that
3 correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And then on the bottom part, the denominator, you have
6 got a higher number because Guttmacher has a bigger number than
7 the CDC's reported number?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. So if you're dividing fewer on top than more on the
10 bottom doesn't it under inflate the likely actual number --
11 misrepresent to the low end of the spectrum how many maternal
12 deaths are actually attributable to an abortion in that year?

13 A. Yes. Your number -- your fraction would be different.
14 It would be lower.

15 Q. I would like to direct you to what I believe is
16 Exhibit-10, the Koch report from I believe the study of
17 abortion legislation, maternal healthcare, fertility, et
18 cetera, et cetera, in the 32 Mexican states. Can you let me
19 know when you're at that document, please?

20 A. I'm there.

21 Q. Okay. If you turn to page 10. I believe you were
22 asked a question about one particular sentence on page 10. Do
23 you recall that?

24 A. Let me get to 10. I don't remember what sentence I
25 was asked a question about.

1 Q. Okay. I believe you were asked a question about the,
2 quote, consequently making a direct or independent causal link
3 between a less permissive abortion law and a lower incidence of
4 maternal deaths, or conversely by considering a more permissive
5 abortion law would be a premature or even erroneous conclusion,
6 end quote. Do you remember that question?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. Let me read you the next sentence and ask you your
9 opinion of that and whether it impacts your declaration.
10 Quote, rather, from an epidemiological perspective the Mexican
11 natural experiment provides evidence to support three
12 complimentary assumptions at the population level. First,
13 abortion legislation per se did not appear to have an
14 independent effect on overall maternal mortality rates.
15 Second, a less permissive abortion law in terms of not
16 considering exemptions from criminal prosecution of abortion in
17 cases of genetic or congenital fetal anomalies was not
18 associated with increased maternal and abortion-related deaths.
19 And third, differences in maternal mortality incidents in the
20 context of different abortion legislation, more or less
21 permissive, appear to be mainly explained by the distribution
22 of other major independent factors most likely facilitating an
23 epidemiological transition for its low maternal mortality rates
24 independently from abortion legislation itself, end quote.

25 Did I read that correctly?

1 A. You did.

2 Q. Does adding that other sentence there for context help
3 explain why you included this report? I'm sorry, yes, this
4 report in your declaration.

5 A. Yeah. I mean, it's consistent with the message that I
6 have shared earlier about the difference between correlation
7 and causal and the fact that we know that there are multiple
8 factors that cause women to die and that this is -- they're
9 acknowledging the fact that they're -- it is not one factor
10 alone, but actually proposing that we have to look at many of
11 the different factors. But just because you're looking at
12 things like education and warning signs and transportation and
13 clean sanitation and things like that, it doesn't exclude that
14 your other observation on the trends -- you don't discount
15 those. You just recognize the multifactorial nature of this
16 issue.

17 Q. And finally, I'd like to ask you about the Fergusson
18 study, which I believe was Exhibit-X. Again, I could be off.
19 That's what my internal numbering was. So if we can fix that
20 later. But you let me know, please, when you've got the
21 Fergusson study up.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. And go to page 450 once you get there, please.

24 A. All right. I can't easily find it, so I'm just going
25 to pull up my hard copy.

1 Q. That's fine.

2 A. What page again?

3 Q. 450 with the implications section.

4 A. Okay. I'm there.

5 Q. Okay. Again, you weren't asked about this, so I want
6 to give you the opportunity to explain more fulsomely why you
7 included this study in your declaration. There's a sentence
8 under implication that's, quote, specifically, the results do
9 not support strong pro-life positions that claim that abortion
10 has large and devastating effects on the mental health of
11 women. Neither do the results support strong pro-choice
12 positions that imply that abortion is without any mental health
13 effects, end quote.

14 Do you see that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And I think you were talking about that, but does that
17 particular sentence there, and anything else that you would
18 like to point to in this study to explain why you included
19 this, please?

20 A. So I know a little bit of the back story of this study
21 from Dr. Fergusson's -- some interviews he did because he
22 struggled so much with getting it published and he was really
23 disheartened that the scientific community would not publish
24 something because they didn't like the results. And he was
25 afraid that pro-life -- the pro-life side would use it to say

1 it's causal and the pro-choice side would use it to say that
2 abortion doesn't cause mental health effects. So the next
3 sentence is actually, I think, one of the most powerful. In
4 general, the results lead to a middle-of-the-road position that
5 for some women, abortion is likely to be a stressful and
6 traumatic life event which places those exposed to it at
7 modestly increased risk of a range of common mental health
8 problems.

9 So what he's saying is that he saw an association and
10 the scientific community has to take that association and
11 explore it more. You know, when Tobacco was first blamed for
12 -- and cigarettes for lung cancer, there was a whole pushback
13 from people who wanted tobacco out there. And it took a long
14 time for people to take that relationship seriously and he
15 doesn't want that to happen. And he says -- I think in his
16 study I think he says one in 10 women in New Zealand have
17 abortions. It's one in four in our country. And why wouldn't
18 we want to dig our feet in deeper and find out are we really
19 helping or harming women. And that's why I think this is a
20 critical paper.

21 Q. Okay.

22 MR. BOYLE: Doctor, I don't think I have any
23 other questions. Thank you very much for your time. There may
24 be some redirect or another lawyer may have a question. But
25 thank you.

1 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

2 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Anyone else? All right.

3 Before we do go off the video record I did need to see if
4 anyone needed transcript copies, rough drafts, or video copies.

5 MR. BOYLE: Can I say for my side, can I just
6 put in the chat what we want? Would that work for you?

9 MR. BOYLE: Oh, you need it on the record?

10 Yeah, we want a -- please, if we can for the legislative
11 defendants, can we have an expedited by next Tuesday, if
12 possible, and a video whenever. I imagine that's easier to do,
13 but it does need to be synced.

14 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: But you don't need an
15 expedite for the video?

16 MR. BOYLE: I mean, I would hope that it would
17 come around -- if I'm paying for an expedited transcript, I'm
18 hoping the video is coming too.

19 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Okay. We'll make sure
20 -- we'll take care of it for you.

21 | MR. BOYLE: Okay. Thank you.

22 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Certainly.

23 MS. SALVADOR: We would also like an expedited
24 transcript, please. And if you have the rough ready sooner we
25 will take that too.

1 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: All right. Anything
2 else?

3 MS. NARASIMHAN: We would appreciate a rough,
4 but don't need an expedited transcript. Thank you.

5 MR. BOYLE: Do you have contact information for
6 where to send that, Ms. Rapaport?

7 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: For you, Mr. Boyle? If
8 you could give me that in chat, that would be great.

9 MR. BOYLE: Sure. I'll do it right now.

10 VIDEOTAPE TECHNICIAN: Thank you so very much.

11 All right. That said, today's deposition is now concluded. We
12 are going off the video record at 6:57 p.m.

13 | Page

14 (Witness excused.)

16 (Deposition concluded 6:57 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)

3 COUNTY OF ALAMANCE)

4 I, Susan A. Hurrey, RPR, the officer before
5 whom the foregoing remote deposition was taken, do hereby
6 certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the
7 foregoing deposition was duly sworn; that the testimony of said
8 witness was taken by me to the best of my ability and
9 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the
10 witness reserves the right to read and sign the transcript of
11 the deposition prior to filing; that I am neither counsel for,
12 related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in
13 which this deposition was taken; and further, that I am not a
14 relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
15 parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the
16 outcome of the action.

17 This the 5th day of September, 2023.

18
19 _____
20 SUSAN A. HURREY, RPR

21 Notary Public #201826800211
22
23
24
25

1 I, SUSAN BANE, M.D., PhD, do hereby state under
2 oath that I have read the above and foregoing
3 deposition in its entirety and that the same is
4 a full, true and correct transcript of my
5 testimony, subject to the attached list of
6 corrections, if any.

SUSAN BANE, M.D., PhD.

12 | STATE OF

13 COUNTY OF

Notary Public

21 My commission expires:

1 E R R A T A S H E E T

2
3 PAGE LINE CORRECTION

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

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17 _____

18 _____

19 I, _____, after having read the
20 foregoing transcript of my deposition, wish to make the above
21 corrections.

22 SIGNATURE _____

23 DATE _____

24 _____

25 _____

A	60:22 65:1,7	70:13,15,25	114:12	47:3 84:19
AAPLOG 45:24	65:18 66:3,11	71:4 73:16	acronym 103:10	132:22
46:1 47:12	67:1,4,8,10,15	75:4,7 77:5,16	act 101:8	affect 10:15
48:4,10	69:5,19 70:4,6	80:22 97:12	action 155:12,16	affiliate 130:1
AAPLOG's 48:2	70:25 71:8	99:16 138:7,15	actions 136:7	affiliated 126:17
abdomen 50:7	72:23 73:1	140:9,10	active 133:12,20	127:18 128:10
119:20,21,24	75:14 78:2,4	146:11,14,23	134:4	affiliates 128:13
120:2,10	78:23 79:19	147:13 152:17	activity 29:16	affiliation 5:23
121:10,10	80:5 81:14	100:5	5:25 126:20	
122:6	82:12,24 85:25	100:12	127:10 130:14	
abdominal 25:6	86:12,20,23	100:25	130:22 131:18	
118:5 119:23	87:3 89:22,23	147:22 148:1	131:19,23	
120:18	89:25 90:2,7	148:10	133:3 134:7	
ability 85:5	90:15,16,17,22	120:18	135:25 137:20	
104:10,16	91:22 92:1,9	abstinence	affirm 40:9	
120:2 155:8	92:13,22 93:5	133:5	affirmation 12:1	
able 10:16 14:7	93:9,23 94:16	abuse 75:16	127:23 128:3	
20:3 28:21	96:7,13 97:4	accept 56:15	afraid 151:25	
34:9 36:23	99:18,24 111:9	accepted 84:24	afternoon 6:3,22	
39:2 41:5,17	111:15,16	access 13:3,5	7:16,19 8:7	
41:17 46:20	112:6 122:21	19:20 44:5	99:4	
79:10 91:10	122:25 123:8,9	59:24 64:3	age 33:8 57:7	
106:23 107:16	124:4,5 125:13	accident 100:18	117:1	
132:23	125:25 137:23	accidentally 111:5	agencies 53:21	
abnormal 94:12	138:9,14 140:4	accidents 100:18	53:22	
106:5	140:16,17,18	account 58:14	agency 136:21	
abnormalities	140:25 144:18	59:2	137:7	
139:8	145:12,16,23	accounting	aggregate 78:14	
aborted 82:19	147:2 148:12	56:11	ago 15:7 17:17	
abortion 5:14,15	148:17 149:3,5	accreta 100:24	41:8 42:16	
11:6 13:3	149:13,15,16	accurate 20:2,11	agree 44:6,23	
14:14 17:6	149:20,24	146:22,24	89:21,25 90:14	
26:23 27:4,6,7	151:9,12 152:2	147:1,7	91:18 108:2	
27:8,9,10,14	152:5	acknowledge	115:24 142:25	
31:8 32:23,24	abortion-prov...	47:5 99:9	agreed 130:6	
33:25 34:3	146:16	acknowledging	agreement 5:23	
36:14 39:12,14	abortion-relat...	150:9	126:20 127:11	
39:22 40:5,10	53:14 54:10	ACLU 7:2	127:14,18	
40:15 41:2	60:6,18 66:10	ACLU's 7:5	130:15 131:19	
42:22,23 43:6	145:19 146:4	ACOG 5:22	agrees 130:21	
43:11,14 44:5	146:13 149:18	19:4 42:7,9,20	ahead 7:9 37:3	
44:5,17,25	abortions 19:9	42:21 43:1,7	54:20 142:8	
48:3,6 49:12	26:21,22 27:3	43:10,17,18,20	AHEC 38:15,16	
49:18 53:9	27:13,18 35:5	43:23 44:1,4,6	38:17,17	
54:15,23 55:1	35:6 44:22	44:14,17 108:8	AHECs 38:19	
55:10,15,20,23	53:6 57:10	115:6,11	al 1:3,6,8 5:16	
56:12,12,15,16	58:7,14 59:1	141:23	6:9,10,10	
56:19 57:5,6,7	59:11,11,16,17	ACOG's 36:22	60:15 70:21	
57:8 58:13	60:16,23 62:2	43:13 44:20,25	71:12 80:22	
59:1,19 60:12	62:2 66:16,19	112:9 113:1	96:10 97:8	

Alabama 124:20	anger 90:11	arm 47:22	assumptions	133:15
ALAMANCE	Anjali 2:4 6:18	article 68:15	85:21 149:12	aware 53:8,10
155:3	8:8 18:9,10	75:1 85:10	53:17,18,20,22	53:17,18,20,22
Albemarle	56:20 77:18	articles 79:3	53:24 54:1,3,6	53:24 54:1,3,6
126:13	93:17	Asherman's	118:1 122:11	54:8,9,13,14
algorithm	anjali.salvado...	30:1	athletes 39:23	54:17,18,24
112:13,14	2:7	asked 10:3 12:7	39:24 51:17	55:5,8,11 60:5
align 29:9	anomalies	15:17 17:17	Atlantic 1:3 2:8	72:21,24,25
alike 90:12	149:17	18:10 20:25	2:13 6:9,20	73:7,9,12,14
Alliance 4:7	answer 8:16 9:8	38:9 44:3	7:12 8:9 19:7	82:24 83:2,10
Allied 38:4	9:13,18,24,24	104:20,20	22:16 37:22	83:15,19 84:16
allow 43:4 44:9	10:16 14:2	143:24 144:15	atony 101:10	84:18 86:15
83:24	16:8 18:5 22:3	145:5,8,18	102:16	91:14,17,20,23
allowed 13:24	36:2,3,4,12	146:2,7 148:22	attached 22:9	91:24 92:8
14:5 50:16,17	40:12 45:1,2	148:25 149:1	127:24 130:22	112:2,8 137:8
83:25	51:22 55:2	151:5	156:5	awareness 38:22
allows 78:15	59:18 60:2	asking 9:3 12:6	attempted 83:4	73:17
alongside	71:6 73:6 95:4	34:12 45:2	83:4	awful 103:12
135:19	102:13 110:17	aspiration 29:19	Attempting	120:3
alternatives	138:16	29:20 30:3	114:20	B
40:20,24	answering 9:2	101:20	attend 48:11	B 5:7
amazed 120:18	answers 8:21	assessed 75:19	attendance 6:17	babies 24:18,19
Amen 49:2	antibiotics 94:13	76:22	52:7	24:24 31:19
America 2:3,9	94:21 95:20	assistants	attended 22:25	34:11,12
6:19 7:11	antidepressants	137:14	47:16 48:9	baby 36:17,19
American 2:16	32:5	associate 38:3,6	5:17 6:15 7:14	50:2,3,4,6,8,11
2:21 42:4	anxiety 79:4,23	associated 29:25	52:17 93:18	52:17 93:18
45:21 91:20	86:25 87:2,4	37:18 75:14	94:8 100:10	94:8 100:10
Amiri 2:17 7:5	106:11,13	81:9 87:12	139:7	139:7
amniotic 37:12	anxious 106:6,9	90:5,10 92:18	Bachelor 22:16	
amount 80:3	anymore 84:10	93:11 96:17	back 16:16 22:7	
84:5 92:12	apologize 10:13	116:14 149:18	30:10 33:19	
100:21 102:5,5	105:8	association 6:6	36:14 38:5	
104:16 105:6	appear 149:13	45:21 67:6	41:13 45:13,16	
121:25	149:21	78:18 81:7,13	45:20 50:10	
amounts 93:3	appearing 7:2	82:12 86:22	56:23,25 70:12	
analysis 69:16	appears 155:6	87:6,10 89:20	73:4 80:15	
anatomy 38:7	appendicitis	91:21 96:12,20	82:17 85:18	
and/or 98:14	120:14 121:15	96:22 97:1	86:1,9 114:5,9	
118:16 132:14	applaud 99:24	98:11 152:9,10	119:14 125:16	
anesthesia 107:7	appointment	associations	130:14 133:2	
107:8,11,12,15	135:6	42:2 45:17,21	141:5,15,22	
anesthesiologist	appreciate 154:3	77:4,15 78:7	151:20	
105:23 107:14	appropriate	78:11,15 86:8	background	
anesthesiologi...	108:4	assume 9:8	116:15	
102:21 106:16	April 52:3	34:12,13	backside 10:10	
anesthetist	area 18:25 19:2	120:23 128:9	balanced 51:25	
105:22 107:14	38:15,16 42:22	assumed 109:22	Bamiri@aclu....	
anesthetists	areas 146:12	assumption	2:19	
102:22 106:16	Arizona 4:10	127:20		

Bane 1:12 6:1,13 8:7,12 12:13 14:2 20:2 45:16 61:12 62:13 64:15 65:9 68:1 71:13 73:23 80:18 81:21 87:25 97:18 114:12,23 127:4 128:20 131:3 141:18 156:1,10 Bane's 12:8 banks 102:19 126:15 139:2 Bar 6:23 7:14 barriers 41:17 124:14 Bartlett 5:11 60:15 61:19 Barton 22:19,22 22:25 37:22 38:1,15,23 41:6,7,24 51:19 83:20 based 44:21 59:9 73:7 79:22 109:5 112:1 basically 13:3 14:4 25:8 31:15 39:15 41:3 47:18 49:10 56:2 81:5 84:25 109:14 117:24 141:4 began 124:15 beginning 36:25 63:16 103:10 behalf 6:14,19 behavior 133:23 believe 12:17 13:1,13 19:21 38:9,18 42:12 44:1 52:14 53:5 54:2 66:1 66:2,4 83:5,11 88:7 90:4 113:4 128:15	129:17 134:18 134:20,21 143:24 144:2 144:21 145:5,8 145:21 146:5 148:15,16,21 149:1 150:18 believes 129:19 bell 3:14 125:11 benefit 41:3 benefits 40:20 40:24,25 benzodiazapine 106:10 benzos 106:19 Berger 1:8 6:10 6:24 142:11 best 9:1,5 41:18 41:20,21 102:25 105:2 136:17 155:8 better 34:11 84:20 90:19,24 147:14 Beverly 2:15 beyond 103:14 bias 84:13,15 96:13,23 99:9 biases 84:17,18 84:20 bible 129:17 big 31:22 47:24 50:3 93:7 125:14,17 bigger 24:10 148:6 biggest 18:15 26:5 139:23 bill 11:24,25 12:1,20,22,23 12:25 13:6,10 13:13,17 14:10 14:14 biomedical 98:13 biopsy 107:10 119:21,21,24 birth 26:16 27:2 36:15 39:20,20 39:21 56:2,3,8 56:15,19 79:25	80:4,7 86:13 87:12,13 90:23 92:24 96:7,13 96:16 97:2,5 98:15 99:14,23 100:23 births 56:5,6 62:7 63:14,19 64:2 66:20 98:15 bit 22:21 26:11 42:1 53:3 70:2 100:4,4 107:19 121:16 122:9 122:17 123:18 142:15 151:20 black 56:8 58:14 59:1,4,10,18 59:21 60:2,7 63:18,18 99:15 99:15,17 bladder 25:12 26:8 blamed 152:11 bleed 100:13,16 100:23 103:8 104:8 119:20 bleeding 27:11 28:1 72:22 92:14,17 100:10 101:1,5 101:21 104:15 105:17 118:6 120:3,4,5 121:19,21,24 121:25 122:16 122:17,18 bleeds 102:19 blind 35:22 blindly 133:21 blood 92:12,15 92:25 100:21 101:6,7,11 102:19 104:13 104:17 118:8 119:21,21,24 119:24 120:3 121:10 122:5 122:15 board 3:8,8 7:25	7:25 46:3,5,11 46:16 47:11,14 52:22 123:22 124:7,8,17 128:1 130:7 bodies 125:21 body 11:20 85:24 120:20 Borass 21:25 Borass's 22:5 74:5 born 34:13 50:9 bothers 112:8 bottom 58:10,20 65:22 66:18 69:9 74:25 145:9 146:9 148:5,10 bowel 26:8 box 2:23 76:15 76:20 Boy 133:11 Boyle 3:5 5:5 6:22,23 12:6 12:10 13:18 16:7 18:3 36:2 36:4,12 40:11 43:15 44:10 55:2 69:22 73:6 88:7,9,12 102:13 103:4 113:24 115:8 133:10 134:17 142:7,9,10 144:8,12,14 152:22 153:5,9 153:16,21 154:5,7,9 brand 46:15 break 9:16,19 12:4 44:11,14 45:5,12 76:6,9 79:12,13 80:8 80:14 114:1,2 114:3,8 134:1 141:5,9,14 breakout 124:22 breast 96:1 brief 141:5 Brigitte 2:17 7:5	bring 51:24 73:4 125:20,21,21 brisk 101:5 British 83:6 Broad 2:17 Brody 24:14 broken 125:23 brought 126:2 built 133:25 Bulleri 3:10 7:23 7:23 bullet 76:21 bulletin 5:22 36:22 108:9 112:10 113:1,5 113:10 114:4 114:13,13 115:6,11 116:2 116:10 122:2 bulletins 43:20 44:17,25 bunch 70:21 burnout 124:25
C				
				C 2:1 c-section 50:14 52:20 92:25 94:8 c-sections 31:20 C.V 5:10 22:8,11 23:24 24:2 31:3 42:17 125:1,8 C4 47:23 calculated 146:15 call 24:13 31:19 42:7 49:24,25 84:17 92:17 called 22:19 24:11 27:9 30:1,23 36:18 37:7 47:8,22 50:12,13 94:4 106:4,7,10 108:18,19 118:24 calling 25:22 29:20 41:8

101:15	30:25 31:2	78:4 79:11	138:2,8,23	characterize
campus 38:20	37:18 39:18	causes 13:6	139:13 140:9	characterized
39:23 51:15,19	63:22 126:13	59:21 60:18	140:22,24	72:21 121:21
canal 104:12	126:14,15	86:20 109:19	141:19,22	charge 49:16
105:9,11	136:22 137:9	causing 32:17	centimeters 94:7	chart 145:9,10
cancer 78:11,13	138:24 140:1	caution 98:9,16	104:11 105:5,9	145:14 146:9
79:10 87:9	144:22 145:11	cautious 108:17	105:12	147:5,23
152:12	155:2	cavity 107:22	central 116:18	charts 86:1
capacity 80:7	Carrie 4:21 6:5	122:7	116:19	chat 19:20 20:4
captioned 6:9	carries 55:14,19	cc 92:25 102:9	CEO 46:7,8,8,10	61:5 62:11
car 100:18	carry 139:24	103:2,6,7,15	cerebral 52:17	64:7 65:7
cardiac 29:16	carrying 55:13	ccrowley@ncj...	52:18	certain 57:15,23
30:5 57:23	55:18,22 92:22	3:22	67:25 71:12	67:25 71:12
care 5:23,24	93:11	ccs 101:3	85:6,13 90:9	73:21 75:22
12:1 24:12,12	case 6:9,10 8:9	CDC 5:14 53:8	95:17 110:23	76:3 81:20
31:24 33:19,20	10:25 11:2,8	53:13,15,20,24	Certainly	87:24 88:18
33:21,23 34:11	11:10,13,14,16	54:4,6,9,15,17	153:22	97:17 114:20
39:3 58:4	11:18 13:20	54:24 55:8,12	certainty 143:21	114:21,22
59:23,25 84:20	14:17 15:6,9	62:5 63:7 65:7	certificate 56:3	126:23 128:19
84:21 99:16	16:2,4,6,12,15	65:17,22 66:3	155:1	131:3 153:6
110:12 112:9	16:17 17:3,8	66:11 144:16	certification	154:8
116:13 118:2	17:11,14,21,24	145:18,22	126:4	check 95:15
119:7 123:22	18:22 19:16	146:12 147:3	132:25	chemical 17:6
123:23,24,25	20:12 21:18,25	147:11,13,17	Cherry 3:15	chief 52:12
124:4,6,12,18	52:14,16,21	148:2	child 33:15	39:21 41:19
125:2 126:17	53:20 66:10,15	CDC's 26:23	56:15,19 87:12	56:15,19 87:12
126:19 127:10	74:6 91:15	65:1 144:1	136:13,16	138:19
127:18,21	96:18 135:1	148:7	cervical 103:18	childbirth 92:19
128:10,13,19	146:20	cell 10:2	103:22 104:6,8	93:5,12,15
129:9,14,15	cases 11:5 36:16	center 3:6 25:21	104:17,21,23	94:15 103:21
130:1,4,14	149:17	25:22,23 38:24	104:24 105:14	children 33:1
132:16,25	categorized	39:6,9 42:1	107:24	41:22 60:3
133:3 136:8	106:12	126:12,13,15	cervix 94:7	99:17,20
139:22 153:20	categorizing	127:23,25	100:15 103:23	choice 41:1,18
cared 33:1	79:9	129:15,16	103:25 104:11	134:4 136:6
career 22:21	Catholic 129:17	130:20 132:7	105:9,10,13,17	138:19
83:14 116:21	129:19,19,23	132:10 134:8	challenge 135:9	choices 39:18
careers 38:21	130:3,9	134:11 137:10	135:12	124:3 126:12
caring 41:23	causal 60:5 70:4	137:22 139:20	chance 36:20	choose 124:2
44:20	98:17 99:11	Center's 130:1	44:11 96:13,23	125:25 138:19
Carolina 1:1,23	149:2 150:7	centers 19:9	change 31:4	chorioamnion...
2:22,23 3:1,2,6	152:1	41:10 65:23	50:6 57:5	37:7,10,11
3:8,8,9,11,16	causation 67:7,8	124:11,17,24	95:22 123:18	94:2
3:19,21 6:7,8	79:16,18,20	125:9 126:9,10	136:24	chose 85:15
7:2,17,20,24	85:22	126:17 127:8	changed 34:10	90:23
7:25,25 8:2,3	cause 55:10 60:4	127:13 128:6	Chapel 15:12	Chris 134:9
11:24 12:21	67:5 78:9	129:10 130:22	24:15	
13:5 21:4	97:12 122:9	131:22 134:15		
23:18 24:6,14	150:8 152:2	134:19 136:20		
24:24 30:13,16	caused 34:25	137:4,6,15		

Christ 134:12,23 136:1	93:17 106:2,14 142:16 145:10	Coleman's 82:24 86:3	53:25 54:1,2,3 common 35:10 87:19 89:8 51:5	59:17 complications 19:3 53:6 57:6 57:11 70:15 73:2,3,15 75:3 75:7 78:14 146:24
Christian 22:16 37:23 123:25 129:21 130:3 134:19 135:11	clarifying 105:19 134:6 classes 38:7 135:15	colleague 15:12 51:5	colleagues 16:19 43:16 51:12,19	commonly 27:9 32:15 90:5,9 107:22
Christians 129:23	classified 84:4	collect 56:14	communicate 46:21	complimentary 149:12
Christiansen 124:9 130:8	clean 14:21 150:13	collection 56:2	communicated 15:8 16:12	comply 130:21 131:23
Christina 46:8	clear 9:5 85:7,20 124:10	Colleen 3:19 8:1	communicating 46:22	conceded 73:3 73:14,17
chronic 52:18 58:2 59:22 60:2 99:21	clearly 116:17 134:19	college 22:16,19 22:23,25 37:22 38:15,21 42:4 51:13 83:1,20	communicatio... 48:14,16	concepts 126:2,6 concern 121:8 122:15
church 129:19 129:19,20 135:18,19	client 6:17 124:14 135:13	colloquially 27:20	community 79:7 132:5 135:14 151:23 152:10	concerned 92:17 110:14 119:10 122:10
cigarette 79:11	clients 7:22 124:12 137:24 138:9,11	colposcopy 106:4	comorbid 86:25	concerning 147:12
cigarettes 152:12	clinic 25:25 29:12 118:22 126:13 136:25	combination 143:10	compare 56:1	concerns 73:4 130:3
circumstances 32:3 35:9 56:18 57:4 87:19 89:8 95:17 100:8 103:20	clinical 30:17 35:23 54:15,24 76:16 95:10 109:1,3,15 110:18,24,25	come 33:18 49:11 69:3 90:6 96:21 114:5 119:14	compared 70:15 86:12	conclude 78:4 concluded 154:11,16
cite 43:20,23 59:7 60:15,19 70:13 80:19 87:18 88:25 90:4 96:10 113:4,10,11	111:1 115:17 116:16,20,24 117:3 118:15 121:9	comes 27:10 31:3 90:13 100:12 103:7 120:12 130:5	competition 90:14,24	conclusion 56:17 70:7 77:9,13 83:23 84:24 89:4
cited 21:8,20 22:5 44:21 74:9,12 84:23 85:10,19 99:25 113:14	clinically 29:7 clinician 116:5 clinicians 75:19 clinics 124:16,17	comfortable 32:16 130:11 132:18	compete 41:5 complain 120:5 complains 103:7	conclusions 55:25 77:2 79:1 147:7
citing 70:20	close 39:24 113:25	coming 34:22 100:25 106:3	complaint 49:19 50:15,20 51:4 51:5,6 118:4,4 118:5 140:21	concretely 79:16 concur 128:2,7 129:11
citizen 12:21	closely 37:6 50:12 119:13	complaints 51:11	complete 27:14 53:15 54:8	concurs 127:23 condition 33:9 33:11
citizens 54:7	co-counsel 6:16 6:20,25 7:4,22	commission 139:6 153:18	completed 23:17 23:21 24:3 126:3 141:23	conditions 33:2 35:8 57:15,18 57:21 58:7
City 126:14	coauthors 74:23	committed 134:11	completely 8:17 117:25	conducted 48:10 conference 22:13 84:15 123:23 124:19
Civil 2:16,21	code 102:21,21	committee 43:23 49:3,4,9,13	compliance 127:17 133:1	125:2
claim 52:9,12 75:6 112:18 151:9	coerced 135:17	committees	complication 68:23 76:10	confirm 61:13
clarified 111:14 113:17	cofounders 69:16,23			
clarify 9:13 25:10 30:15 36:14 91:13	Coleman 82:18 83:2 84:22 85:8,18			

81:21 87:25	constitutes	78:19 81:8,9	correctly	149:16
88:24 97:18	92:13	86:7 89:22	62:3 69:21	criminal
108:16 109:24	consultative	99:10 101:1,20	72:19 77:6,17	crisis
114:15,23	39:4	104:13	77:23 82:15,16	criteria
117:6 123:11	consults	81:11	89:9,10 98:22	critical
confirmation	139:14	controlling	111:19 128:4	135:1,2
115:22 116:25	contact	conversation	130:24 134:13	criticism
confirmed	154:5	18:12 39:25	137:25 146:10	criticized
28:2	contacted	129:14 136:10	149:25	Crowley
109:11,13	17:20	conversations	67:6	3:19
116:6 117:12	content	35:19 39:14	8:1,1	crown
120:15	49:16	73:9 140:13	117:1	cul-de-sac
confounders	contents	conversely	122:3	122:4,5,14
69:23,24	16:24	70:5	culture	126:4
confounding	18:12 21:14	coordinating	curettage	29:23
67:21 77:4,14	50:24 81:3	149:4	29:24	3:20
78:18 81:3,8	92:13 93:15	119:7	Curran	current
81:15 82:14	95:10 100:19	copies	22:11,12	42:4,6
89:14 96:14,23	101:17 149:20	12:5	22:12 123:19	46:3 126:7
98:17	150:2	14:20 15:2	currently	cut
congenital	continue	153:4,4	42:4,6	82:7 92:10
149:17	8:21	copy	12:8	cyst
connect	87:7	14:18,21	120:15	25:9
135:13	continued	20:2,5,11,18	counseling	D
conscience	38:11	20:18 58:17	82:21 140:25	D 5:1
11:25 13:14	continuing	61:2,3,5,13	country	D&C 28:2 29:20
14:4,7,8	26:11 103:8	63:5 64:16	41:20	29:22 30:3,4
consent	26:13,15 39:5	68:21 71:22	56:7 99:14	102:4 103:25
138:18	131:25 132:1,5	76:11 150:25	124:11 152:17	couple
consequence	132:6,18,23	Corporate	County	37:2 39:1
39:17	133:21	3:6	6:23	63:3 76:8
consequences	contraceptive	correct	7:14 155:3	124:21 143:23
133:12	132:12	11:16,17	156:13	course
consequently	contraceptives	13:14 14:11	105:4,6	16:18
70:3 149:2	132:11	22:17,18,20,22	couple	34:10 67:21
consider	contract	23:6,9 24:20	124:21 143:23	D&Cs
29:2,5	101:23	26:3 27:5,18	141:25	25:5 26:1
31:2 32:8,10	contracted	31:12 33:2	court	26:4 101:19,24
35:4 46:25	132:20,21	45:22 47:12	1:1,19 6:6	102:1,3 104:3
109:12 110:9	contracting	49:5 55:1	6:8 8:15,19	D&Es
110:16,22,23	101:10	57:20 61:20,21	11:12 56:22	30:8
Considerations	contracts	63:23 67:3	143:25 144:7	DA
115:17	101:11	72:8 74:10	covered	7:21,21
considered	contraindicated	82:22 90:20	covering	daily
44:7	123:12 142:14	93:9 97:13	31:21	36:24
98:18	142:18	104:5 115:7,22	COVID	damage
considering	contribute	116:12 128:17	125:4	26:7
70:6	15:19	139:18 144:1,6	cow	53:5,8,24
149:4,16	40:17 43:4	144:9,12,17,20	101:4	54:4,23 55:6
consistent	44:9 98:14	145:20 146:5	Cowit	55:24 56:1,14
85:16	99:19,19	148:3,4 156:4	2:4	56:17 59:15
89:10,19 94:13	contributing	CORRECTION	CPR	62:5 63:7 65:2
97:1 116:1	75:1	157:3	137:17	65:18 66:3
146:21 147:9	contributions	corrections	cramping	78:14 84:22
150:5	75:1	156:6 157:21	27:11	146:12,15
consistently	control	23:23	147:2,11	date
78:15	26:17	credentials	43:24	111:22 157:23
	65:23 67:20			daughter
				52:6

Davis 3:14	15:2,20,23	degree 22:16	describe 11:22	diagnostic
day 36:25 48:14	16:20,25 17:18	23:13	12:15 13:16	114:14 115:20
48:15,15,18	17:18 18:14,21	degrees 23:25	20:22 33:4	143:21
112:3 139:1	19:16 20:11,23	delay 111:10	38:1 39:14	diaphragm
155:17 156:15	21:6,9,12,14	delayed 111:17	48:12 49:22	119:25,25
daycare 135:15	22:2,9 24:17	deliver 24:18,19	71:7 75:13	die 35:13 59:21
days 38:25 50:10	32:25 43:21	37:3 94:7	80:21 82:18	60:17 67:19
117:2 139:3	45:18 58:9,25	delivered 31:19	93:14 120:21	109:17 119:12
DC 2:11	60:9 63:21	50:2,3 82:20	121:4,17	150:8
dealing 10:14	66:24 68:11	deliveries 24:21	described 27:17	died 50:10
dealt 100:16	70:12 74:12	139:22	30:14 136:2	differ 113:9
dean 38:13	75:6,11 79:21	delivering 24:24	describing 94:15	147:14
death 26:9 54:14	80:19,21 82:17	99:20	description 5:9	difference
55:10 57:6,14	85:10,20 86:9	delivers 100:10	13:12 26:12	140:17 150:6
57:22 59:18	87:19 88:25	delivery 33:24	design 85:21	differences
60:12,21 62:1	90:4 91:25	50:1 92:25	86:7 89:12	67:14 69:18
64:22,23 70:5	93:8,22 96:4,6	93:24 100:19	designed 26:25	149:19
116:9 145:17	97:3 99:2	100:22 101:2,3	58:4 91:4,16	different 30:25
deaths 53:14	108:10 111:5,6	102:5	37:2 38:5 80:6	
54:10,25 56:5	111:8 112:16	denominator	90:1 96:19	
57:17 62:6	112:24 113:5	56:10 146:15	102:5 117:4,5	
63:14,19 64:1	113:11,15,22	147:4,21 148:5	destroy 60:3	120:12,22
64:24 66:10,11	146:21 149:9	department 3:1	details 120:7	121:11,11
87:20 89:6,17	150:4 151:7	3:9,19,25 7:17	125:16	126:8,9 134:3
145:15,15	declarations	7:20,24 8:2,3	detect 108:14	137:14 140:16
146:5,13,25	18:16,22 21:17	38:5 106:7	117:16	147:16 148:13
147:2,19 148:1	21:21,24 22:5	132:24	detected 107:25	149:20 150:11
148:2,12 149:4	74:6,9 99:1	depended	108:1	differential
149:18	deed 134:10	116:24	detection 111:10	101:9 120:13
deceleration	deep 105:11,14	depending 33:18	111:17	differentially
50:3	deeper 106:15	118:4,6	determine 55:9	101:14
decelerations	152:18	depends 106:2	devastating	differentiate
50:12,13	Defendant 2:25	Dепо-Provera	151:10	121:10
decide 84:12	3:12	26:17	developed 34:17	difficult 56:1
decided 15:14	defendants 1:6	deposition 1:10	132:23	57:4,7 58:2
33:24	3:17 6:24 7:21	6:13,13 9:12	development	104:13 105:2
decides 139:24	153:11	9:22 10:9,18	38:19	105:17 146:23
decision 39:16	Defending 4:7	15:18,24 16:21	develops 37:14	dig 152:18
40:3,5,7,9	define 29:22	18:2,12,18,23	diabetes 35:21	digital 14:20
51:14,15 95:11	34:7,8 40:8	19:13 20:20	57:25	15:4 20:18
99:23 125:23	81:3 138:10	48:24 142:2	diagnose 112:12	61:5,12 63:4
129:15 130:1	defined 48:6	154:11,16	112:19	64:16 71:22
136:17,18	98:11	155:5,7,11,13	diagnosed 33:9	76:12
138:20	definitely 10:7	156:3 157:20	115:19	digitally 14:18
decisionmaking	118:18,23	depositions	diagnoses 33:6,7	14:19
29:9 125:9	definition 26:23	10:14 15:17	diagnosing	dilatation 29:23
decisions 47:25	26:24 27:18	48:23	101:14	30:7 105:5
134:10	47:3 102:4	depression 79:4	diagnosis 101:9	dilate 103:25
declaration 5:10	107:2	79:23 86:25	108:24 116:4	105:5,12
11:9,10 14:21	definitive 85:21	87:1,4,14,16	120:13	dilating 103:23

dilators 103:24	74:23 80:18	62:10,16 63:2	20:2 21:17,20	120:2
ding 29:4	98:2,20 114:12	63:7 64:4,10	21:25 22:5	Dylan 2:4
diocese 49:4,10	115:7,24	65:12,17,19	45:16 46:8	dylan.cowit@...
direct 13:1 39:3	131:20	66:1,3,5 68:4	61:12 62:12	2:7
40:15 42:24	discussion 30:24	69:8 71:11,16	64:15 65:9	E
48:7 70:3	69:12,13 72:5	71:22,23 73:11	68:1 71:13	E 1:8 2:1,1 5:1,2
143:23 144:21	72:6,15 77:8	73:11,20,25	73:22 74:5	5:7 6:10 157:1
145:21 148:15	98:19 112:24	74:11 75:25	78:21 80:18	157:1,1
149:2	113:21	81:25 88:1,3	81:20 83:2	E65 116:2
direction 49:10	discussions	91:6 97:21	84:22,22 85:7	E66 115:14
155:9	132:16	108:12 109:23	85:8,9 86:2,3	earlier 48:6
directly 9:23	disease 60:3	110:1,24 113:4	87:25 91:14	52:11 84:18
34:2 116:10	65:23	113:14 114:17	97:17 114:12	99:10 100:5
129:16	diseases 58:2	114:20,21,21	114:23 123:16	117:9 133:16
director 38:14	59:22 99:21	115:1,6 126:22	124:8 127:4	134:2 140:4
41:11 124:8	disheartened	126:25 127:6	128:20 130:8	143:21 147:6
126:8 128:1	151:23	127:10,22	131:3 141:18	150:6
141:1	dislike 84:8	128:11,19,23	151:21	earliest 117:3,5
director's	disorder 79:5	129:3,8,21	draft 45:18	early 43:20
129:15	106:13	130:17 131:2,6	drafting 20:22	50:12 59:25
disagree 42:22	disorders 75:15	131:11,16	drafts 153:4	108:14 116:23
44:4,19 55:21	75:16,18 76:22	132:8 134:7	dramatically	119:9 129:20
55:22 91:23	77:5,15 78:2,5	137:20 143:13	73:1	ears 121:7
disagreed	80:23 86:24	145:6 148:19	draw 78:16	easier 20:17
129:24,25	90:6	documentation	118:8 147:7	63:4 72:11
discharge 94:12	disparities 59:23	17:5 21:1	drawing 147:8	153:12
disciplinary	disparity 58:15	111:24	draws 60:5	easily 150:24
52:24	59:2	documented	Drive 3:6	east 23:18 24:11
disciplined	distinction	27:1 112:4	drop 19:19 64:6	24:14 30:13,16
52:22	133:4	117:6	114:20	30:20,25 31:2
disclaimer	distribution	documents	dropped 20:4	37:18 138:25
137:23 138:4	149:21	18:23 19:12	52:14,16,21	eastern 139:25
disconnected	District 1:1,1	21:8 68:16	dropping 61:4	easy 64:3
135:19	3:12,17 6:8,8	88:17	62:10 65:6	ectopic 25:8
discount 150:14	7:14	doing 28:7 29:5	67:24 71:11	43:21 80:6
discouraging	disturbed 78:22	48:21 58:16	73:20 81:19	107:20,21,25
85:12	diversity 38:20	67:19 87:24	87:23 114:20	108:1,2,13,18
discovering	38:22 84:14	99:25 100:2	114:21 126:22	108:21 109:1,4
75:14	124:23	103:25 105:4,6	128:18 131:2	drug 32:14
discovery 1:19	dividing 148:9	107:9,10	109:13,16,18	109:22 110:5,6
6:6 13:20	Divinity 126:3	108:12 123:2	96:23	110:9,12,16,20
discuss 16:24	division 148:1	134:21	dues 43:2,5	110:21,22
18:4 63:21	Dobbs 51:14	Donna 46:7	Duke 126:3	111:10,12,18
86:10,11	doctor 12:22,25	door 116:8	duly 6:2 155:7	112:12,19
discussed 21:14	132:20,21	136:6	duties 24:8 39:2	113:1,21
31:15 32:19	142:11 143:23	double 123:2	47:14,15 49:9	114:13,14
125:12	152:22	downside 98:20	124:6 137:11	115:11,19,21
discusses 78:5	document 19:23	downsides 98:19	dying 35:25	115:25 116:4,9
discussing 60:21	20:3,20 21:4	Dr 8:7 12:8,13	36:10 60:4	116:11 117:10
61:20 72:1	30:11 61:8,19	14:2 15:11,15		

118:17 119:11	emergency	equity 84:14	Ex-S 5:13	71:13 73:22
119:15,16	50:14 118:9,12	124:23	Ex-T 5:14	75:22 76:12
120:16,23	emotional 90:1	equivalent	Ex-U 5:15	81:20 87:25
121:8,12,24	emotions 90:11	109:13	Ex-V 5:16	97:17 114:22
122:19 142:18	employed 30:18	erroneous 70:7	Ex-W 5:17	126:23 128:20
142:24 143:1,5	31:4 141:18	149:5	Ex-X 5:18	131:3 146:3
143:14,17,19	155:12,14	especially 89:6	Ex-Y 5:19	Exhibit-10
143:22	employee 30:16	89:17 139:25	Ex-Z 5:20	148:16
ectopics 56:13	155:14	Esquire 2:4,4,5	exact 60:25 62:8	Exhibit-A 22:9
116:14	employer 52:25	2:9,10,16,17	65:19 125:6	Exhibit-AA
Edenton 3:2,10	empower 126:1	2:22 3:1,5,10	127:7	97:21
3:20	empowered	3:15,19,20 4:8	exactly 47:8	Exhibit-BB
edge 100:12	39:15	4:17,18	56:23 90:12	115:1
editor 73:22	empty 14:24	establish 79:16	108:25 113:16	Exhibit-CC
educate 30:20	encourage	97:12	113:18	126:25
educating 47:24	135:12	estimated 67:13	Examination	Exhibit-DD
education 46:7	ended 22:22	69:17	5:3,4,5	128:23
46:12,14 47:8	139:18	estimating 43:24	examined 6:2	Exhibit-EE
59:25 150:12	endometritis	et 1:3,6,8 5:16	examining 89:22	131:6
educational	94:5,14,19	6:9,10,10	90:15	Exhibit-P 19:21
23:23 46:18	95:8,18	60:15 70:21	example 19:8	19:23
effect 78:9	engage 128:1	71:12 80:22	32:5,6,15	Exhibit-Q 61:8
137:23 149:14	engorged 101:7	96:10 97:8	34:24 35:21	143:25 144:3,5
effective 32:12	entail 46:14	148:17,18	36:18,21 87:9	Exhibit-R 62:16
133:15	47:14,15 49:9	ethically 14:5	94:2 99:6	144:22
effects 32:12	124:7	evacuation 30:8	107:8 109:6	Exhibit-S 64:10
67:13 69:17	entailed 48:13	evaluation	118:5	145:21
98:17 151:10	entire 119:20	114:14,15	examples 27:15	Exhibit-T 65:12
151:13 152:2	entirety 21:9,18	115:20,22,25	89:11	Exhibit-U 68:4
effort 8:21	21:25 156:3	116:11	exception 3:18	Exhibit-V 71:16
eight 33:6 43:2	entitled 62:11	evaluations	9:17	Exhibit-W
51:19	65:7	50:22	exceptional	73:25
either 9:11 10:7	environment	Evangelical	124:12 137:5	Exhibit-X 75:25
11:3,5 14:17	94:9	129:21 135:21	exclude 123:14	150:18
85:1 86:1	environmental	event 152:6	142:14,18,23	Exhibit-Y 81:25
143:5	98:13	events 73:4	150:13	Exhibit-Z 88:3
elective 30:22	eobrien@ncd...	eventually 83:25	excluding	exhibited 67:1
electronically	3:23	everybody 56:3	123:13	exhibits 143:24
139:10	epidemiological	95:23 135:22	excuse 10:6	exist 54:4 96:21
element 87:2	149:10,23	137:1	25:20 34:22	exists 81:10
Elisa 4:19 7:3	epidemiologists	evidence 46:19	excused 154:14	expect 15:18
Elizabeth 3:20	55:9	97:1 149:11	executive 129:14	33:15 93:1
7:19 126:14	epidemiology	Ex-AA 5:21	exemptions	expectant 28:1,4
Ellis 3:5 6:22	116:16	Ex-BB 5:22	149:16	28:5 36:21,22
15:11 142:10	equality 41:21	Ex-CC 5:23	exercise 38:7,8,8	37:5 102:2
else's 147:11	equally 134:11	Ex-DD 5:24	exhaustive	expected 33:11
email 16:4	equate 80:4	Ex-EE 5:25	69:16	72:23 123:10
embryo 117:6	equated 29:24	Ex-P 5:10	exhibit 19:21	expecting 109:5
117:13	equipped 102:15	Ex-Q 5:11	61:6 62:12	expedite 153:15
embryos 33:7	equipping 46:19	Ex-R 5:12	64:8 65:9 68:1	expedited

153:11,17,23	facilitating	105:17 118:6	fill 119:21	flaccid 50:9
154:4	149:22	Farris 21:17	filling 92:15	flag 131:24
experience 79:6	facilities 146:16	123:16	119:24	flashes 32:4,6
79:22 121:9	facility 28:25	Farris's 21:20	fills 121:10	flaws 79:15
133:7,18	29:3 30:17	fast 52:20 101:8	finally 150:17	Floor 2:5,17
experienced	106:19,24	fatal 143:22	financially	flow 101:7
15:16 57:11	107:17	fatality 66:10,15	155:15	fluid 37:12
83:20	facing 134:10	66:19	find 44:17 63:4	122:3,14
experiences	fact 10:23 14:4	fatigued 129:20	91:12 111:5	focusing 13:20
125:20	52:6 54:22	fatigue 124:25	144:4 150:24	folks 16:11
experiment	56:6,11 78:22	FDA 123:14	152:18	79:24 114:19
149:11	83:22 85:12	142:22	finding 41:13	follow 86:2
expert 10:22,23	89:16 94:7	Federation 2:3,9	80:22 82:18	108:8,11 109:9
10:25 11:1,4	99:8,8 144:10	6:19 7:11	85:16 122:3	118:23 119:5
11:13,15 15:6	147:1,11 150:7	feel 9:6 41:18	143:7	136:23,25
16:5 19:16	150:9	42:23,24 95:14	fine 9:14 10:12	following 90:23
20:11 48:9,16	factor 77:4,15	120:19 121:11	20:19 27:12	116:18 119:6
48:19,21 91:15	83:7 87:2,20	121:13	50:2 61:16	119:13
expertise 125:21	89:8,18 97:2	feet 136:4	63:6 92:11	follows 6:2 87:3
125:22	99:19,19,20,21	152:18	113:15 151:1	followup 118:22
experts 83:1	150:9	fellow 91:14	finish 9:2,3	119:2 139:11
expires 156:21	factors 13:8	felt 32:16 41:8	finished 23:12	forbid 102:20
explain 140:17	67:14,21 69:18	44:8 51:23	37:16	foregoing 155:5
150:3 151:6,18	90:3,5,10	52:19 130:10	Finland 86:16	155:7 156:2
explained 67:14	96:16,21 98:14	Fergusson 5:19	Finnish 86:11	157:20
69:18 81:15	98:17 110:6,12	78:21 79:13	87:18	forget 47:8
82:13 87:15	110:20 116:3,4	80:22 81:13	first 6:2 15:5	Forks 1:21
149:21	116:15 133:22	84:23 85:8,9	20:3,6,25 38:9	form 40:11
explanation	134:3 149:22	86:3 150:17,21	39:1,1 42:12	69:22 73:6
100:3	150:8,11	Fergusson's	49:14 50:2	102:13 103:4
explicitly 67:12	failure 57:24	151:21	61:22,25 63:10	115:8 136:21
85:20 97:11	fair 46:22 79:14	fertility 148:17	72:6,15 76:15	Forsyth 7:14
explore 98:10	fairly 83:18	fetal 29:16 30:5	76:18,21 85:3	forth 30:10
152:11	faith 5:24 43:5	35:1,13,15	88:24 109:20	127:24 130:21
exposed 152:6	127:24 128:7	42:25 47:2,6	115:19 121:21	fortunately
exposure 77:3	128:20 129:9	50:5 117:12	121:23 123:17	83:25 108:20
77:14	129:11 130:19	140:5 149:17	130:9 132:15	found 60:20
express 40:5	135:10	fetus 33:5 34:16	132:19 143:24	66:25 72:7,16
extent 91:5	fall 134:1	35:17	149:12 152:11	81:14 82:13
externing 7:4	fallopian 107:23	fever 94:11,12	Fiscal 47:21	84:2
extremely 83:12	falsely 112:18	fewer 148:9	five 104:11	Foundation 2:16
91:16 135:21	familiar 24:25	fighting 36:19	105:4,9,12	2:22 7:2
eyes 128:11	65:1 90:25	figure 68:8	108:15 117:2,2	four 23:15 34:20
136:4	91:3,5 127:6,7	figured 68:20	117:2,6,9	35:1 50:10
<hr/>	familiarity	file 62:11 65:7	five-minute	70:13,14 79:6
F	24:23	71:12 73:21	141:9	84:23 85:4,11
face 124:1	family 16:16,17	128:19	fix 105:8 125:24	104:11 105:4,9
face-to-face	16:19	filed 52:9,12	150:19	105:12 137:20
47:17	far 17:14 30:24	files 14:16	Fjerstad-Niini...	152:17
facilitate 140:2	47:24 66:14	filings 155:11	5:17 73:21	fourth 30:22

fraction 148:13	germane 13:22	106:6 111:6	99:4 100:2	gynecologist
Francis 46:8	gestation 60:13	114:1 115:14	134:20,21	106:15
free 9:6	gestational	119:11,12	147:9	Gynecologists
freedom 4:7	35:21 57:7	123:19 125:16	gosh 90:6	42:5 45:22
13:14	94:3 108:15	130:14 139:2	gospel 134:11	gynecology
freestanding	117:1,7	141:11 142:8	135:22,25	23:18 24:6,10
25:23	getting 49:1 69:3	145:25 146:2	governance 48:1	
frequent 82:21	89:23 113:25	150:23 153:3	graduate 23:15	H
82:22	139:4 145:7	goal 135:9	23:25 38:13	H 5:7 157:1
fresh 14:4	148:2 151:22	God 41:8 102:20	graduated 22:15	half 38:25 48:18
Friday 139:14	gist 14:8	129:18 136:13	22:25 31:5	56:9 87:1
friend 15:12	give 15:22 18:18	goes 68:13 85:5	Grandin 4:17	116:3 139:1
front 14:17 22:7	20:13 27:25	going 6:4 8:13	Graunke 2:22	hand 61:22
22:10 40:18,18	39:20,20,21,22	8:25 9:8 16:2,7	4:18 7:1,1	handle 102:1,15
41:18 91:2	52:2 58:21	16:7 19:19	Gray 2:15	140:25
Frontiers 83:10	68:7 80:7	27:12 29:7	great 9:5,11 10:5	handled 101:24
full 8:11 31:20	83:12 84:1	30:10 33:24	10:7 42:21	handout 132:4
37:24 41:23	90:23 91:7	35:21 37:6,8	43:3 44:4	132:22
59:9 63:10	95:3,14,16	43:6 44:10	56:14 61:19	hands 136:4
92:15 156:4	99:23 101:22	45:11,20 46:17	82:5 86:4 91:8	Hanes 96:10
fully 130:21	101:22 106:10	47:18 49:15	109:24 154:8	Hannah 2:9 7:6
fulsomely 151:6	106:12 110:18	53:2 58:12	7:9,10	7:9,10
further 70:2	112:3 131:12	61:12,22 64:6	Hannah.swan...	2:12
142:5 155:13	133:21 138:18	67:9,20 68:15	happen 59:23	
	142:16 147:3	68:17,17 69:15	83:18 119:1	
G	151:6 154:8	70:2,12 71:20	136:10 152:15	
G 3:15	given 28:23,24	74:16 75:21	happened 10:24	
gal 68:21	56:17	77:19 78:13	51:14	
gamut 31:20	gives 86:4	80:12 82:17	happens 109:7	
gaps 140:1	109:24 116:16	83:22 85:18	119:15	
gears 53:2 92:4	giving 8:21 52:1	86:5,6,9 88:16	happy 50:17	
100:4 107:19	52:4 79:25	89:13,18 92:6	85:14	
123:18	80:4 86:13	97:16 98:8	hard 14:18	
gender 12:1	100:23 142:24	100:4 105:15	33:14 35:19	
14:10	glance 130:10	107:19 109:16	50:11 58:17	
general 3:4 7:18	go 7:9 14:8,20	113:13,24	68:16,21 69:3	
125:17 145:13	15:22 16:16	114:1,4,6	71:22 76:11	
152:4	26:10 30:24	117:6 120:6,22	130:7 132:22	
generalization	36:24 37:3	123:18,19	134:1,1 150:25	
93:7	41:14 43:2	133:19,20	harder 105:1	
generalized	45:8,16 53:15	134:6 135:11	harm 32:17	
119:23	54:20 63:10	136:12,14	133:19	
generally 18:5	64:18 65:21	137:19 141:12	harming 40:17	
18:11 31:11	66:5 69:8 72:3	141:22 144:4	152:19	
38:1 48:12	74:19 75:10	147:15,24		
71:8,9 72:8,18	76:3,25 80:9	150:24 154:12		
84:6 113:13,20	82:5 88:18	good 6:3,22 7:16		
genetic 98:14	89:2 93:20	7:19 8:7 9:10		
149:17	95:12 98:4,6	43:5 79:9		
gentlemen 6:4	101:8 103:14	90:14 96:15		

143:10	101:23 104:18	holes 54:21	human 3:25 8:3	immediate 102:18
head 8:22 14:3	124:2,17 134:9	holy 101:4	13:2 40:16	immediately 74:13
53:16 55:4,12	135:11,20	home 94:11	51:7	impact 39:25
60:8 86:18	136:15 150:2	109:17,18	30:19 35:3	78:19 83:7
101:8 119:4,14	helped 24:17,19	homicide 87:20	42:14 56:5	90:7 147:4
139:2	helpful 137:19	honest 48:25	71:6	impacted 13:4
head-to-head 92:23	helping 39:17,19	95:22 136:25	hundreds 78:17	51:16
heading 72:6,15	124:14 152:19	138:6	Hurrey 1:18	impacts 149:9
77:2 82:10	helps 101:12	honestly 49:15	155:4,19	implanted 100:14
98:7,8 115:17	123:25 124:11	113:17 116:7	hurt 134:1	implication 151:8
headings 76:16	hemorrhage 26:6 72:22	121:17 128:8	husband 120:21	implications 76:16 82:7,9
health 3:25 8:3	91:25 92:2,8	honors 38:9,10	hydatiform 56:13	98:7 125:9
38:4,21,24,24	92:13,18,21	hope 134:9	136:18 138:19	151:3
39:6,9 47:5	93:1,2,4 100:5	153:16	hopefully 36:17	implicit 84:15
53:21,22 59:23	100:10,21	101:2,4 102:4	58:5 143:13	implied 79:20
67:15 69:19	101:2,4 102:4	102:10,15	hoping 153:18	imply 151:12
75:7 79:8	103:2	103:2	hormonal 26:16	important 21:4
81:14 82:13,25	hemorrhages 100:16	24:13 25:8,14	84:16 89:21	
86:5 89:22	hemorrhaging 100:6 101:17	25:17,18,20,24	98:18 100:1	
90:6,10,15	102:24 103:13	28:19 29:21	109:9	inaccurate 55:24
91:22 132:24	hereto 127:24	31:21,22 34:21	55:25	
135:2 136:21	130:23	heterotopic 50:18 95:9,12	incidence 70:5	
140:5 151:10	108:19	95:18,21,23	149:3	
151:12 152:2,7	Hi 7:1,6	104:3,7,9,14	incidents 149:19	
healthcare 14:6	high 60:6 99:14	104:15 118:14	include 28:15	
38:22 39:22	109:1,3,14	hospitalization 17:4 94:24	29:11 70:25	
40:16 47:4	119:10 120:1	95:2	113:6	
48:7 73:5	higher 57:14,17	hospitalize 95:6	included 19:6	
125:17,18	58:13 59:1,12	hospitals 24:21	22:2 25:1	
135:3 139:25	59:14,15 70:14	24:24 102:11	26:16 52:13	
148:17	70:14 86:12	102:14,17	100:2 116:17	
healthy 33:15	89:5 99:15	104:22	150:3 151:7,18	
133:8	110:25 148:6	hot 32:4,6	includes 43:13	
hear 121:7	highest 83:6	71:17 74:1	108:11 132:4	
heard 8:19 29:4	highlighting 89:16	76:1 82:1 88:4	including 21:3	
59:24 121:4,6	Hill 15:12 24:15	97:22 115:2	38:13 59:22	
121:15	HIPAA 136:23	127:1 128:24	83:1	
hearing 13:21	136:25 137:1	131:7	inclusion 84:14	
heart 41:16 50:5	137:16	identify 6:15	124:24	
50:8 117:12	hired 38:3	53:13 54:10	inclusive 129:23	
heavier 122:17	history 108:3,6	Illinois 23:1,5	incomplete	
heavily 82:25	110:7,21	17:21,23 92:16	27:13 98:19	
101:21 113:1	hold 43:10 120:2	139:15	inconsistent	
heavy 72:22		house 135:7,8	112:9,22	
88:20 120:4,4		housekeeping 8:14		
Heck 37:15				
hell 136:13				
help 32:6 40:19				
60:2 93:17				

incorporated 127:25 130:23	infallible 129:18	48:7	irritates 119:25	jury 52:13
increase 38:21 57:21 89:18 97:5 143:18	infection 26:6 36:24 37:11 93:9,11,14,23 93:24,25 94:5	interested 155:15	irritating 119:22	Justice 3:1,9,19 7:18,20,24 8:2
increased 39:2 75:15 80:23 86:20,24 87:11 87:16 97:12 149:18 152:7	94:6,9,13 96:1 infections 133:22	internal 100:14 100:15 121:21 150:19	issues 25:12 49:11 57:23 59:25 86:5 90:11	K
increases 60:13 96:7 143:20	inferences 78:16 135:2	internationally 85:3	IUD 123:11	Kara 4:17
independent 67:14 69:18 70:4 149:2,14 149:22	infertility 106:9	interpretation 98:16	IUDs 26:18	Karalis 5:20 88:11,25
independently 149:24	inflate 148:10	interpreting 98:16	IUP 21:1 109:24 110:1 112:4,25	keep 147:15
indicate 89:7	influence 67:15 69:19	interrupt 40:22	116:6 117:6	kept 83:10 98:15
indicated 29:7 110:21 124:5	inform 146:19	intersection 126:5	123:11,13	Kevin 3:15 7:13
indication 35:14 35:15	information 19:6,8 39:16 44:2,24 45:2	Intervenor-De... 1:9	142:19 143:13 143:16	keynote 125:1 kgraunke@ac... 2:24
individual 48:24 53:20 108:12	informed 40:2 138:18	intervention 26:25	Jesus 134:9,12 134:22 136:1,4	kicked 127:21
individuals 12:18 16:3 18:16 43:13	initial 67:13 69:17	interviewers 75:19 76:23	Jim 3:13,18 7:14	kidney 57:24
induced 26:22 26:23 27:3,8 32:24 33:25 34:3 35:6 36:14 42:23 43:6 44:22 48:6 56:12 57:6 58:13 59:1,11 60:12 60:23 62:1 67:8,10 93:23 96:7 98:12 99:18 111:15 124:5 138:7 140:4,9,10 146:11,13,14	initially 38:3 103:6	interviews 48:17 151:21	job 41:24 58:4 125:22,23,24 125:24,25	killing 13:1 40:15 42:25 48:8
induction 34:5 34:14,15 35:9 35:12,17,20 36:1,11,16 37:8,14	injected 137:7	intraabdominal 107:24	147:10,14	kind 26:11 30:14 36:13 48:16,17 48:22 69:14 80:5 83:20 107:6 122:4
inductions 35:5	inspired 129:18	Intraoperativ... 100:16	John 15:11 45:17	kinesiology 23:2 23:4 38:6
	Institute's 146:16 147:3	intrauterine 17:5 108:16,20 108:25 109:5	joined 6:24 7:3	Kinsley 3:24
	instruct 16:8 18:3	109:16 110:14 111:2 112:25	Joshua 1:6 2:25 3:4 6:10 7:18	knew 32:17
	instrumentation 104:19 105:3	113:21 120:16 122:12 139:7	journal 83:6,9 84:2,7 85:4,14 85:15	know 9:7,14,17 10:9 13:21 16:2,5,19,21
	instruments 94:10 103:24	142:14 143:6	journals 79:1 84:12,13,23	16:22,23 17:17 25:22 29:9,25
	integrate 135:8	introduced 14:23	journeying 125:19	33:7,14 35:3 35:13 36:22,24
	integrity 84:3	intubate 102:22	joy 80:4	37:1 41:4 43:5
	intention 36:15 36:16	invasive 10:12	jpayne@adfl... 4:12	43:16 44:21 47:23 49:16
	intentional 13:1	investigation 83:9	judge 125:24 136:7	50:17,23,23 52:7,17,18
	40:15 42:25	involve 27:23	judgemental 120:19	53:13,15 56:3 56:4,6 57:4,5,5
		28:5 29:18	juggle 68:16	57:24,25 59:10
		30:7 38:23	Julia 4:8 15:10 16:3	59:11,13,17 65:9 66:7 67:4
		39:11	Julie 6:24	67:19 68:1,16
		involved 15:13 16:2 127:21	July 17:17	71:3,9,13 73:8
		involving 27:17	jumps 119:8	73:23 76:5,7
		irresponsible 79:2	June 51:14	78:19,20,24

79:2,7,11,12	Kudumuri 4:16	learned 126:6	license 137:13	little 10:12 26:11
81:5 84:13,20	4:20	leave 41:6	137:16	42:1 53:3 70:2
85:13 86:24	kwilliams@be...	135:22 136:5	licensed 137:15	100:4,4 107:19
89:12,15 90:3	3:17	leaving 44:7	licensing 52:22	121:16 122:9
92:21,23,24	L	lectures 30:21	lies 135:16	122:16 123:18
93:4,6 94:14	L 38:15,16	31:9	life 41:19,22	142:15 146:8
95:3,13 99:5	lab 143:11	Lee 38:24 39:6,9	49:4,10,17	151:20
99:13,14,15,22	label 32:1	LEEP 106:4	102:23,25	live 27:2 36:15
100:22,23,24	labeled 66:9	left 41:7,7 44:4	124:2 125:20	36:17,17 56:2
101:1,9,21	labor 49:25	61:22 69:10	140:6 152:6	56:5,6,7 62:6
103:8,13	100:19,22	80:18 119:18	life-affirming	63:14,19 64:1
104:11,18	102:5	122:13	124:3 136:18	66:20
106:21 108:24	laceration	legal 1:20 2:22	138:19	lived 133:18
109:6,8 110:11	101:13 104:1	7:2 11:10	life-limiting	living 133:17
112:1 113:20	105:14	39:18 41:20	33:2,11	LLC 1:20
115:14 116:8	lacerations	60:22 66:15	lifestyle-related	loaded 133:11
116:15,24	102:17 103:18	146:11,13,14	98:13	lobbying 47:22
117:3,5,7	103:23	legal-induced	47:24	47:24
118:1,6,16	ladies 6:3	146:23	local 107:6,8,11	107:6,8,11
119:7 120:13	laid 128:11	legally 62:1	107:15,15	107:15,15
120:14,14,19	landmark	legally-induced	located 109:11	109:11
120:22 121:7	105:13	60:22 62:2	location 108:22	108:22
121:14 124:2	language 124:10	legislation 5:15	108:23 109:10	108:23 109:10
127:4,9 128:8	laparoscopy	11:24 67:1,15	109:13 110:3	109:13 110:3
128:8,21 130:6	25:9	69:6,19 148:17	110:20 112:7	110:20 112:7
131:4 132:23	large 101:6	149:13,20,24	limitations	117:21 120:24
133:1,3,22,25	119:4 151:10	legislative 6:23	56:14 73:11	143:7,18
134:2,3 135:5	larger 147:17,18	11:20 142:10	76:17,22 78:7	logistics 15:24
135:20 136:5,9	late 50:13	153:10	85:21 89:14	logo 65:22
136:9,11,13	law 7:4 15:18	length 117:1	96:16 99:5	long 15:4 42:10
138:15,17,17	70:4,6 149:3,5	let's 32:15 37:1	limited 25:7	46:1 69:14
140:16 144:7	149:15	69:4 90:20	LINE 157:3	83:13 91:6
144:23 145:3	laws 44:22 67:5	93:20 106:3	lining 29:25 94:6	93:22 98:8
145:24 146:24	lawyer 18:4	111:6 119:17	119:22	130:7 133:24
147:10 148:19	152:24	130:14 132:3	link 60:6 70:4	152:13
150:7,20	lawyers 48:22	141:11	149:2	longer 37:25
151:20 152:11	lay 75:19 76:22	letter 51:22	linked 91:22	42:20
knowing 132:19	LBW 98:14	73:21	list 53:15 54:8	longitudinal
knowledge	lead 26:7 35:8	level 23:25 24:1	55:4 156:5	86:3
29:15 30:4	46:16 87:4	34:21 59:3	listen 14:22	longitudinally
87:11	98:25 124:21	92:17 110:23	lists 30:13	78:23 90:23
known 27:9 52:8	152:4	110:25 111:1	literal 16:17	look 13:6 53:16
67:14 69:18	leader 46:6,11	119:10 149:12	literature 13:9	56:4,8 60:24
85:3 90:9	46:13 47:10,11	levels 106:16	18:25 19:1,3	64:17 67:17
116:4 127:20	leaders 142:11	112:11,18	21:2 73:1 74:9	69:4 71:5
knows 16:17	leading 109:19	116:18 118:7	75:2 78:10	77:10 78:19
89:15	leads 55:25	118:23,24	79:3 83:14	81:7,16 84:21
Koch 148:16	learn 122:20,24	143:11	85:24 96:18	86:1,19 88:13
Kristi 2:22 4:18	7:1	Liberties 2:16	133:14 134:24	88:23 91:6
	123:8	2:21	135:1	92:23 95:10

96:20 106:8	low 98:15	62:16 64:7,10	50:16 59:13	123:8,9 142:24
111:24 113:12	110:25 148:11	65:8,12 67:25	71:9 92:10	medication/ch...
122:1,2 125:16	149:23	68:4 71:16	93:24 100:21	140:17
127:8 134:24	lower 67:1,5	73:25 75:25	119:9 120:11	medications
145:14 146:8,8	70:5 73:2	81:25 88:3	125:15 136:1,3	111:16
147:12 150:10	120:18 122:4	97:21 114:22	136:12 137:12	medicine 23:19
looked 21:22	122:14 143:18	115:1 126:25	138:11 142:17	24:14 27:8
22:6 65:3	148:14 149:3	128:23 131:6	147:6 150:5	33:17,17,22
139:7,10	lung 78:11 79:10	married 132:11	153:16	43:1 58:3
looking 10:9	87:9 152:12	132:17 133:4	meaning 28:1	106:11,22,23
20:6,20 45:1		133:13	87:1 101:10	126:4,5 134:24
50:8,10,12	M	mass 122:12	117:12,17	140:2,7
58:19 61:14	M 5:2	massage 101:22	means 100:12	medicines
63:7 64:16	M.D 1:12 6:1,13	Massey 2:5	126:19	101:23
68:20 75:21	23:7,14 156:1	massive 39:16	meant 102:2	meet 134:22
76:11 78:7,17	156:10	master 23:1,25	142:23	136:15
81:21 88:1	mad 136:14	master's 23:13	media 6:12 54:9	meeting 46:16
89:15 97:18	Madam 143:25	23:15	54:11	47:17 49:6,14
99:7 113:18	main 13:9 26:19	mastitis 96:1	medical 3:8 7:25	meetings 47:17
114:23 125:15	75:1	material 46:18	10:25 12:22,25	member 42:4,9
126:4 132:8	major 91:8	materials 142:1	13:2 23:14,16	42:13,20 45:21
150:11	149:22	maternal 5:12	24:13 28:22	46:1,5 47:14
looks 27:12	majority 15:3	5:13 13:4 21:3	30:18 31:25	49:3,6,9
46:18 78:23	44:21 95:21	35:1,12 47:2,6	41:11,20 44:24	123:21 124:6
88:22 90:7	making 47:23	53:25 56:4	45:2 46:18	128:1
loss 43:20 80:5	61:15 70:3	63:13,17,22	members 30:17	
92:12 103:15	99:23 149:2	64:1 67:1,15	43:10,17,18	
104:17	malpractice	69:19 70:5	membership	
losses 56:13	10:25 11:14	86:15,16	42:15,16 43:8	
lot 13:19 15:16	52:9 83:13	109:19 140:5	43:11,13	
17:15 33:14	manage 106:5	144:1,16,17,18	membranes	
34:21,23 35:19	106:15 118:11	144:23 145:11	34:24 35:8	
39:23 44:4,19	management	145:13,17,19	memory 10:15	
54:21 84:11	27:21,23 28:1	146:4 148:11	men 33:8 120:20	
88:17 96:2	28:4,5,8,13,22	148:17 149:4	124:1 132:12	
98:24 99:12	29:13,18 30:7	149:14,18,19	133:25	
101:7 103:13	36:21,23 37:5	149:23	Mendias 2:16	
104:13 109:7	101:17 102:3	maternal-fetal	7:5	
116:24 120:3,6	mandatory	33:16,17,22	menopausal	
126:2,5 133:25	54:19,23	58:3 140:2	32:4	
lots 34:20,20	Mantula 70:23	matter 6:7 52:6	menstrual 109:6	
43:16 78:10	manually 50:7	56:6	109:8 111:22	
120:11	marijuana 82:22	matters 102:23	112:2	
loud 34:23	mark 71:13	Mbulleri@nc...	mental 75:7,15	
love 30:20 33:14	73:22 75:22	3:12	75:18 76:22	
41:14 133:1	81:20 87:24	mean 17:15 19:2	77:5,15 78:2,5	
134:18,20,23	97:17 126:23	19:5 31:9 33:4	80:23 81:14	
136:8	128:20 131:3	33:5 40:22	82:13,25 86:5	
loved 134:23	marked 19:23		86:24 89:22	
loving 136:4	61:6,8 62:12		90:5,10,15	

91:22 135:2	mine 15:13	Monday 139:14	murdering 136:13,16	needed 20:19
151:10,12	138:21	monitor 37:6	136:12,16	41:12 49:10
152:2,7	minimal 32:13	50:8	muscle 120:21	51:23,24 116:8
mentioned 13:12	minimum	monitors 50:5	muted 10:6,11	118:13,14
16:1 18:21	114:14 115:20	monogamous		153:4
19:12,15 21:1	minors 12:2	133:24	N	needs 11:1 98:15
25:1,16,25	minute 20:13	month 15:7	N 2:1 5:1,2,2	102:20 139:5
26:1 30:12	minutes 12:19	17:17 139:3	Nags 139:2	140:2
94:2 100:20	45:6 80:11	months 113:8	name 6:22 7:7	negative 90:11
101:3 105:4	106:21 114:2	Moore 6:24	7:13,16 8:8,11	123:2
120:9 121:19	miscarriage	142:11	18:7 38:5	neither 143:16
124:18,21	25:5 26:1,4	morally 14:5	62:12 65:7	151:11 155:11
139:16 141:22	27:9,20,23	morbidity 65:24	71:12 73:21	Net 5:23,24
mentioning	28:21 29:12,18	145:22	126:10 128:19	123:22,23,24
134:22	30:7 80:6	morning 48:16	named 16:11	123:25 124:18
mess 88:22	101:17 120:4	mortality 5:12	58:7	125:2 126:17
message 147:9	122:18	5:13,20 13:4	names 14:23	126:19 127:10
150:5	miscarriages	21:3 53:9,25	Narasimhan 3:1	127:19,21
met 49:24 96:19	122:19	56:4 57:24	7:16,17 154:3	128:10,13,19
metaanalysis	miscarried	58:15 59:3,12	narrow 130:5	129:9,14 130:1
96:20	27:15	59:13,14,19	narrowly 89:15	130:4,14
metal 103:24	miscarry 27:13	60:6,7 62:6,11	national 7:5	132:25 133:3
methods 43:23	miscarrying	63:8,13,17,22	38:18 53:5	Net's 124:4,6
72:7,17 91:11	27:14	64:1 65:24	123:21 124:7,8	132:16
91:11	misnomer 79:10	67:1,5,13	124:18 125:2	Net-affiliated
Mexican 148:18	Misoprostol	69:17 86:15,16	146:12,16	129:15
149:10	28:16,17,18	89:5 109:20	natural 56:12	never 15:17
Mexico 5:15	29:2,11,15	144:1,11,16,17	149:11	25:19 31:4
66:25 69:6	32:20 71:1,4	144:19,23	nature 12:15	32:24 48:8
Michael 3:10	111:16 112:3	145:11,13,15	134:3 150:15	79:10 102:3
7:23	112:21 123:12	145:19,22,22	NC 5:13	121:17 124:5
middle 1:1 6:8	142:13,17,20	146:4 149:14	NCAA 51:18	127:20 136:7
9:18 27:14	142:21	149:19,23	near 36:19	138:4
69:14 77:3,13	misplaced 88:17	Mota 5:18 75:13	102:24	nevertheless
98:9 101:4	misrepresent	75:13 78:17,24	69:15	69:15
135:9 137:3	148:11	79:15	new 2:6,6,18,18	new 2:6,6,18,18
middle-of-the-...	missing 72:9	mother 34:10	46:15 47:7	46:15 47:7
152:4	mission 134:8	35:15	necessary	51:15 152:16
midwives 24:18	mistake 9:12	mouth 121:20	144:10	newborn 95:13
24:23	mixed 142:15	multifactorial	need 8:25 9:7,16	nice 77:12
Mifepristone	MMWR 65:23	59:21 67:18,22	13:5,6 35:23	Niinimaki 5:16
28:15 32:20	Mobile 124:20	81:6 86:6	60:24 65:4	70:21,24 71:12
111:16 112:3	mock 48:24	134:2 150:15	67:17 71:5	71:25 74:22
112:21 123:12	modestly 152:7	multilayered	74:13 81:16	88:9
Mifeprrex 32:20	modify 98:25	103:14	85:1 87:21	nine 24:7 35:2
142:13,17,21	moles 56:13	multiple 36:25	102:18 104:19	nodding 8:22
mild 106:12	mom 11:4 35:11	69:16 97:12	113:25 135:14	non-Hispanic
mind 98:16	35:14 36:17,24	150:7	139:14 153:3,9	63:18
137:18	moment 9:11	multispecialty	153:13,14	non-hormonal
minds 41:20	118:17 136:17	24:11	154:4	26:16

nonprofit 47:21	106:16 107:14	117:14	115:14 120:8	opinions 99:1
normal 33:8	nurses 137:13	occurred 146:11	123:20 125:14	124:9 146:20
100:23 122:9	Nursing 3:8 7:25	occurs 87:14	126:10 127:5	146:21
North 1:1,23	NW 2:10	October 52:2	129:3,24	opportunity
2:21,23 3:1,2,6	O	offer 41:21 84:5	130:16,20	83:12 84:1
3:8,8,9,11,15	O 5:2	office 7:5 24:12	131:1,15 132:9	141:7 142:16
3:16,19,21 4:9	O'Brien 3:20	27:11 104:12	139:20 141:21	151:6
6:6,8 7:2,17,20	7:19,20	104:25 106:20	142:4,7,20,25	opposed 43:14
7:24,25,25 8:2	O'Neill 3:13,18	107:9	144:8,13,21,25	option 27:25
8:2 11:23	7:15,21	officer 155:4	145:3,4 147:1	28:11,23,24
12:21 13:5	oath 8:15 156:2	official 51:5,6	148:21 149:1	39:20 95:14
21:3 24:6,24	ob 119:9	oh 7:8 41:3	150:22 151:4,5	options 37:2
39:18 63:21	ob-gyn 12:22	77:10 88:12,23	152:21 153:19	95:16 101:15
126:12,14,15	24:4 30:19	92:11 102:2	153:21	132:4
136:22 137:9	31:6,12,14,16	111:12 123:20	old 127:9	oral 129:19
138:24 139:25	31:18 37:17	153:9	once 31:5 55:3	order 71:6 82:6
144:22 145:11	139:12,18	okay 8:23 9:3,9	78:6 85:24	127:18
155:2	141:18	9:14,15 10:10	86:5,23 87:5	organization
Notary 155:20	object 9:22 16:7	12:11,15 16:24	96:15 99:12	38:18 42:23
156:19	40:11 69:22	19:18 20:21	133:16 139:3	47:20 123:25
note 78:10 97:11	73:6 103:4	24:3 28:9	150:23	124:10 130:4
noted 13:25	115:8	31:14 36:5	one-and-a-half	133:2
58:15 59:2	objection 13:18	40:23 42:3,7,7	12:18	organizations
notes 14:16,22	13:23,25 36:2	45:4,8,20 53:4	85:6 124:13,13	
November	36:12 40:11	58:11,18,24,25	126:8	
145:23	43:15 55:2	60:11 61:15,18	organs 26:7	
number 5:9 6:11	102:13 133:10	61:19,24 62:23	originally 16:1	
22:23 56:4	134:17	63:3,6,12	os 100:14	
62:8 64:3	objections 13:24	64:17,18 65:15	OSHA 137:17	
66:10 88:14	obligated 8:16	65:17,21 66:8	outcome 155:16	
100:20 127:22	observation	66:22 68:14,15	outcomes 67:13	
129:17 130:20	150:14	68:23 69:1,4,4	69:17 98:12,21	
132:8 134:7	observed 118:13	69:12 70:9,11	Outer 126:15	
137:19 146:11	obstetrical 24:12	70:24 71:19,20	139:2	
146:13,22,24	obstetrician	72:4 74:18,21	outpatient 25:23	
147:4,13,16,17	31:21 106:15	75:12 76:6,8	25:25 28:25	
147:23,25	Obstetricians	76:10,10 77:1	29:3,12 95:15	
148:6,6,7,10	42:5 45:22	77:10,10,19,21	95:25 96:2	
148:13	obstetrics 23:18	78:12 80:8,18	102:3 103:3	
numbering	24:6,10	80:20 81:18,23	106:19,24	
150:19	obtain 58:7	82:3 84:19	107:17	
numbers 19:8	obtained 53:8	88:6,14,22,22	outside 24:24	
58:19 60:25	obtaining 60:22	88:23 89:3	25:14,17,18	
69:9 82:6	62:1	92:4,8 93:21	28:19 34:9,17	
145:9,10,18	obvious 103:11	95:17 97:19	35:17 95:18	
147:5	103:12	98:1,4,6	107:21 146:11	
numerator	occasionally	102:14 110:4,8	ovarian 120:15	
148:1	35:14	111:7,25	122:8	
nurse 41:12	occur 107:23	112:17,24	ovary 107:24	
102:22 105:22		114:12 115:6	over-the-coun...	

106:11	Pap 106:5	particularly	112:6,7 116:5	71:1
overall 60:21	paper 20:18	44:8 83:23	116:14 118:21	period 60:21
62:1 67:2	99:7 152:20	86:25 100:17	119:1 121:1	87:12 109:6,8
145:14 149:14	paragraph	101:6 102:15	123:8 124:12	111:22 112:2
overinflation	58:16,18,19	109:4,9 132:6	132:22 133:19	peritoneal
147:21	59:9 60:1,10	133:13	140:8 143:9	119:22 122:7
overlap 23:10	63:10,17 64:21	parties 155:12	perivable 36:19	perivable 36:19
overseeing	66:23,24 68:8	155:15	perks 121:7	perks 121:7
105:22,23,25	68:13 69:14,15	partner 126:1	permission	39:22 140:14
106:1	70:2,12,17	partnering	39:22 140:14	permissive
oversight 47:16	75:10 77:3,13	125:20	66:25 70:4,6	66:25 70:4,6
P				
P 2:1,1	77:14 80:18	partners 119:7	149:3,4,15,21	person 15:11
p.m 1:13 6:5	82:11,18 86:10	135:14	108:25 119:5	108:25 119:5
45:11,14 80:13	86:11 88:14	partnership	person's 89:22	perspective
80:16 114:7,10	92:1,6 96:4	38:15 133:17	46:20,21,23	46:20,21,23
141:13,16	97:4 98:8 99:7	party 11:18	51:24 52:5	51:24 52:5
154:12,16	111:6,8 112:15	passed 28:22	105:13 129:22	105:13 129:22
P.O 2:23	113:19	pastor 132:13	130:6 140:19	Peter 2:10
packs 104:18	parent 39:21	patch 26:17	149:10	peter.im@ppf...
pad 14:23	parentheses	patient 28:6,19	2:12	2:12
pads 92:15	63:18	28:10 57:10	Ph.D 6:13 23:4	Ph.D 6:13 23:4
100:25 122:18	Parenthood 1:3	67:9 83:8,21	23:14,15 38:6	23:14,15 38:6
page 5:3,9 58:10	2:3,8,9,13 6:9	84:7 85:13,15	84:9	84:9
58:16,16,19,20	6:19,20 7:11	85:25 87:1	PhD 1:12 6:1	PhD 1:12 6:1
61:22 63:11	7:12 8:9 19:7	90:15,16 111:9	156:1,10	156:1,10
64:18,21 65:21	103:9	121:11,15	Philip 1:8 6:10	Philip 1:8 6:10
66:5 68:13	parenting	132:11 133:4,6	philosophically	philosophically
69:8 72:3,9,14	135:15	134:21,23,25	42:22	42:22
74:19,25 76:15	part 13:2 19:4	135:5 136:4	phone 10:2	phone 10:2
76:18,25 77:7	22:2 24:10	138:16 152:13	138:16	138:16
82:5,6,7 89:2	25:20 29:12	152:14	physically 139:2	physically 139:2
98:4 113:17	30:19 31:14,18	percent 21:7	physicals 31:23	physicals 31:23
115:14 116:2	31:22 40:16	30:19 39:24	physician 38:24	physician 38:24
145:5,6,9,25	43:4 44:6	42:14 43:2	79:23 132:14	79:23 132:14
146:1,3 148:21	48:25 49:12	51:17 56:7,8	Physicians	Physicians
148:22 150:23	74:16 88:20	56:10 71:6	24:11 30:19	24:11 30:19
151:2 157:3	120:19 122:4	80:23 97:5	physiology 38:8	physiology 38:8
paid 17:7,10	125:14 136:10	109:7 110:11	38:8	38:8
31:5 42:15	140:7 146:10	134:25	picture 47:20	picture 47:20
pain 118:5	148:5	percentage 95:3	104:10 119:3	104:10 119:3
119:18,19,23	participating	patient's 108:3	125:17	125:17
120:1,9,10,12	15:6	111:21	pictures 139:10	pictures 139:10
120:18,21,22	participation	patients 27:24	pills 26:17	pills 26:17
121:2,2,3,5,6,7	17:7,10	33:13 34:2,23	Pitt 3:14	Pitt 3:14
palpated 50:7	particular 43:10	35:13,16 39:5	place 23:7 24:21	place 23:7 24:21
palsy 52:17,18	70:9 74:11	40:17,18 47:2		
pamphlet	79:15 82:10,11	47:6 48:8		
135:23	92:24 137:16	56:16 94:18		
	146:10 148:22	95:6 100:5		
	151:17	101:16 103:18		
		106:18 110:11		

39:21 46:9,10	76:21 112:15	Practical 108:9	27:1 28:3 41:9	142:14,18,24
placenta 100:12	118:3 121:25	practice 5:22	41:10,16 42:1	143:1,2,4,6,6,6
100:13,14,24	151:18	13:2,10 24:5,9	43:20,21,24	143:14,16,17
101:13	policies 19:7	24:9 25:1	51:19 55:13,19	143:18,19
placental 100:11	71:5 137:2	27:17 30:24,25	55:22 56:19	145:14
100:24	policy 44:6	31:1,3,12,22	57:8,11,22	pregnancy-rel...
places 55:5	51:18	31:23,25 33:1	58:1,2,15 59:3	57:14,17 64:22
107:23 147:2	poorly 120:20	33:19 35:2	72:7,17 80:5	64:23
152:6	popping 121:13	36:22 42:12	82:19 89:5	pregnant 34:6
Plaintiff 2:15	121:18	49:23 50:19	90:1,2,20,21	34:16 39:9
plaintiff's 13:19	population	98:7 100:6	92:22 93:19,23	41:4 55:15,19
plaintiffs 1:4 2:2	149:12	103:17 105:21	93:25 94:4	55:23 57:12
2:20 6:14 7:3	portion 56:25	105:24 107:13	98:12,12	94:1,4 100:17
plan 47:18,20	58:14 59:2	112:10,22	107:20,21,21	101:5 102:16
91:6	position 13:7	113:1,5 114:12	108:13,14,16	102:23 109:2
Planned 1:3 2:3	44:5,24 48:2	115:11 116:21	108:18,19,20	111:12 120:14
2:8,9,13 6:9,19	124:4 138:9,12	117:14 119:4	108:21,22,23	132:3
6:19 7:11,12	138:13 152:4	122:2 127:21	109:1,5,10,11	preliminary
8:9 19:6 103:9	positions 50:7	132:2 133:8	109:12,16,18	13:21
play 40:1 96:21	151:9,12	136:24 137:16	109:24 110:2,3	premarked
please 8:11,21	positive 117:15	139:12	110:5,6,10,15	19:21
9:1,6,16 11:22	117:25 143:1,4	practicing 38:23	110:17,19,20	premature
12:5,16 13:16	143:16	practitioner	110:21 111:3	34:11,24,25
14:2 20:22	possible 58:13	39:22 46:18	111:11,18,23	35:7 70:6
29:22 30:15	58:25 79:7	135:3	112:12,25	99:20 149:5
36:6 37:9 38:2	153:12	practitioners	113:1,21,21	prematurity
39:14 44:12	possibly 27:12	14:6 46:20	114:13,15,16	99:21
49:22 61:5	54:14,25	47:4 125:18	115:12,19,21	prenatal 31:24
62:9,12,13	post-child 87:12	139:25	115:22,25	33:19 59:25
64:7,15,19	postpartum	pray 135:5	116:9,12,23	118:1 139:22
65:8 66:5	87:14,15 93:16	prayed 19:14	117:10,11,15	prepare 18:1,11
67:25 68:1,25	94:5 100:9	130:7	117:16,20,25	18:23 19:13
69:8 71:13,14	101:2,4	preborn 33:1	119:15,16,17	21:12 142:2
72:3 73:22,23	potential 32:12	49:3	120:16,16,23	prepared 1:18
76:25 81:4,20	potentially	precluded 85:21	122:12 124:1	19:16 22:3
81:21 87:24,25	15:13 16:3	precondition	124:11,24	prerecorded
88:24 89:2	106:10,13,20	43:11	125:9 126:9,10	125:5,7
97:17,18 98:4	109:17 118:7	predictors 57:6	126:13,15,16	prescribe 26:13
114:2,22	118:13 133:19	preexisting	127:13,23,25	32:6 39:5
126:11,23	143:22	57:15,18 58:6	128:6 129:10	106:18 132:6
128:20 131:3	potty 76:6	preferable 10:8	130:20,22	prescribed
144:24 145:24	powerful 152:3	pregnancies	131:22 132:3,6	31:25 32:20
146:8,20	pprom 35:8	33:18 56:5,7,9	132:10 134:8	prescribing
148:19 150:20	36:21,22	56:12 98:20	134:10,10,15	32:13 123:13
150:23 151:19	PPS 103:9	107:25 108:1	134:19 136:20	142:22
153:10,24	PPSAT 8:10	109:21,25	prescription	
plus 10:11 94:1	71:3 111:21	110:12 112:6	137:6,10,22	107:1
point 9:11,16	112:5,11	143:22	138:2,8,23	present 4:15
36:20 58:9	122:21,24	pregnancy 13:8	139:7,20,24	7:22 29:16
60:1 61:22	PPSAT's 123:8	17:5 19:4 25:8	140:9,22	30:5 51:20,21
			141:19,22	

72:6,16 75:1 89:13 94:10 120:11,17 presentation 121:5 125:2,12 presents 94:12 121:8 preterm 34:24 35:7 96:7,13 96:16 97:2,5 98:14 99:14 pretty 95:23 130:18 prevent 10:15 Prevention 65:23 previa 100:14 previability 34:5 34:7 previously 98:11 priest 130:9,9 primarily 26:8 27:25 primary 134:8 print 84:11 146:8 printed 69:9 72:14 82:7 prior 9:13 17:6 155:11 private 24:5,9 33:1 35:2 42:12 54:7 132:2 pro-choice 43:17 51:25 52:8 78:21 84:25 151:11 152:1 pro-life 43:17 45:22 46:20,25 47:1 51:24 52:4,8 84:19 151:9,25,25 probably 15:3 35:10 39:23 41:7 73:10 93:21,24 100:9 102:9 problems 82:21 91:22 152:8	procedural 70:15 71:8 procedure 29:20 106:4,4,21 107:9 procedures 25:14,15,16,18 26:2 29:19 30:8 71:6 137:2 proceed 8:5 proceedings 52:24 process 20:22 29:10 37:1 produce 12:8 product 16:9 production 12:9 professional 38:13 42:2 45:17,20 84:11 85:6 professor 38:3,6 program 23:11 23:14 38:10,10 38:20 49:17 programs 23:10 progresses 60:13 prompting 136:11 pronounce 18:7 properly 146:17 proposing 150:10 prosecution 149:16 prospective 86:4 86:2 protected 16:9 59:3 protection 11:25 protocol 95:24 108:2,4,8,11 113:10 protocols 103:9 103:11,13 112:21 123:15 prove 109:4 proven 109:15	109:22 111:2 120:24 provide 25:24 28:12,18 29:15 33:19,25 122:21,25 124:12 131:25 132:11 135:13 provided 19:8 32:23 91:5 146:12 147:20 provides 71:3 112:5 137:23 149:11 providing 16:14 17:2,4 27:23 28:6 29:2,11 29:18 136:9 provisions 13:7 13:10 Prozac 32:15 pseudosac 108:18 Psychiatrists 83:1 psychiatry 83:6 134:25 psychological 82:20 90:7 91:21 psychology 38:8 83:10 public 12:19 53:21,22 155:20 156:19 publication 85:5 publications 83:7 publish 85:2,5 151:23 published 83:15 85:3,11 151:22 publishing 78:25 pull 36:13 61:12 67:17 87:21 150:25 pulled 22:10 88:17 127:4 purpose 43:1	purposes 20:17 push 133:2 pushback 152:12 put 13:18 14:23 75:22 89:13 97:16 105:10 107:9 121:20 153:6 Q quantify 17:15 question 9:2,3,6 9:9,18,24 10:13 16:16 36:6 44:3 57:4 68:17 77:11 112:4 133:11 145:18 146:7 148:22,25 149:1,6 152:24 questioning 6:15 questions 8:16 9:5,23 10:16 30:11 44:14 63:3 76:8 141:6,8 142:6 142:12 143:24 144:15 145:5,8 146:2 152:23 quite 83:2,15 104:20 quotations 75:3 quote 111:15,15 146:10,17 149:2,6,10,24 151:8,13 R R 2:1 157:1,1 racial 58:14 59:2 radiology 106:6 Raleigh 1:23 2:23 3:2,6,11 3:21 6:6 49:4 49:15 138:25 ran 38:20 48:24 randomize 67:9 85:25 randomized 155:10 156:2 157:19	79:18 range 72:23 93:3 152:7 ranging 38:7 Rapaport 4:21 6:5 154:6 rapidly 104:9 rare 73:15 75:3 108:20 Rarely 80:1 rate 50:5,8 58:13 59:1,12,13 60:7,21 62:1,6 63:14,17 64:1 66:10,15,19 70:14 73:2,15 75:2 86:12,15 86:16 99:14 117:12 rates 5:12 62:11 63:8 67:1,5 80:23 89:5 144:2,11,16,17 149:14,23 ratio 64:23 145:15 rationale 87:15 ratios 64:22 RDMSS 137:14 reached 15:10 16:3 139:9 reaction 90:1 read 21:8,17,20 21:22,24 22:4 22:6 55:3 56:23,25 59:5 62:3 69:15,21 72:19 74:13 77:6,17,23 82:15,16 89:9 89:10 98:8,22 99:6 111:19 123:16,17 128:4 129:4 130:24 131:24 134:13 137:25 139:15 146:17 149:8,25 155:10 156:2 157:19
--	--	---	---	--

reader 89:14	135:16	140:8	133:9,24	146:14 147:13
readers 98:10	recognize 14:7	reference 78:20	152:14	148:7
reading 41:11	50:11 65:17	88:14 90:8	relationships	reporter 8:19
73:8,9 146:9	67:21 96:16,22	93:7 127:25	81:5	56:23 57:1
ready 153:24	96:25 103:12	130:23	relative 155:14	143:25 144:7
real 49:1 73:15	129:3,7 131:11	referenced	relatively 60:6	155:1
75:3	131:16 132:17	131:19	relevant 74:16	reporters 1:19
realize 9:12	138:20 150:15	references 15:3	reliable 44:1,18	6:6 48:17
136:15	recognized	19:5	95:11	reporting 53:10
really 18:14	67:18	referencing	relief 121:17	53:12 54:23
20:24 35:10	recognizes 99:4	107:12	relies 53:13,20	73:10 146:12
39:17 40:1,2	recognizing	referral 140:6	53:24 54:4,6,9	147:10
41:8 42:22,24	96:20	referrals 140:3,3	religion 126:5	reports 53:21
46:16,17,19	recollection	referred 27:3,20	rely 53:17,18	54:6,9,16,25
48:25 58:5	111:22	35:7 91:15	88:16 112:25	55:9,9 72:22
59:20 73:3	recommend	120:1 135:25	147:11	represent 6:16
79:4 99:4,17	35:16 36:9,10	referring 107:16	remain 127:17	7:14,21,24 8:2
100:1 104:8	36:16 37:8,13	132:14,15	127:18	42:24 142:10
106:6,9 109:10	37:13 118:21	139:18	remember 42:11	145:11
116:5 120:20	132:10	reflect 147:5	48:20 49:15	represented
124:13 125:15	recommendati...	regarding 15:9	74:11 100:17	146:3
125:18,19,25	139:11	15:16 16:12	113:9,13,15,16	representing
126:1 132:21	recommendati...	21:1 22:3	125:6,12 135:7	6:23 7:18 8:9
135:16 136:3	112:10 115:18	48:17 52:16	148:24 149:6	reproducible
136:15 137:19	116:17	69:5 98:19	reminder 34:22	91:10
140:1 146:24	recommended	124:9 130:9	remote 1:10 6:4	reputable 83:9
151:22 152:18	35:20 36:1	regularly 30:22	155:5	request 114:2
reason 66:1,2,4	119:2	137:17	removing 25:9	138:5
72:13 89:23	record 6:4 8:11	regulation	107:10	requested 56:25
128:15	13:19 45:9,11	136:21	repair 104:25	requesting
reasons 13:10	45:14 80:9,13	reinforce 99:3	105:1	137:24
85:22	80:16 114:7,10	reinforces 100:1	repeat 9:7 36:5	requests 12:8
reassurance	141:11,13,16	relate 11:5	37:9 55:11	54:15,24
109:25	153:3,8,9	related 11:2	56:20 72:14	require 94:24
reassuring	154:12	12:1 14:10,13	77:11 118:25	95:2
117:10	records 53:17,18	14:17 19:3,3	143:11,12	required 43:10
rebuttal 83:12	53:19 54:15,25	21:2,4 46:17	147:24	116:11 127:17
recall 28:20	recovered 50:4	54:15,25 55:10	repeatedly 99:3	137:11
49:17 60:20,24	red 131:24	131:25 132:16	rephrase 9:7	requirement
62:5,8 63:25	redirect 152:24	132:23 134:4	121:1	17:5 21:1,2
64:3 67:17	reduced 155:9	140:19,25	replicate 91:11	112:25
90:8 103:22	reduces 58:5	144:18 145:16	reply 74:16,22	requires 95:20
104:24 148:23	reduction	155:12	report 5:13,17	research 78:6,8
receive 111:9,16	133:15	relates 51:18	11:8 21:3	78:19,22 79:9
116:3	refer 8:10 20:18	relating 13:13	53:22 63:22,25	79:9,15,17
received 23:4	33:16 34:2	49:12	64:19 65:24	81:3,6 83:13
123:15 140:21	40:14,19 45:24	relation 78:1	144:23 145:23	84:17,22 85:3
140:24	118:9,11	relationship	148:16 150:3,4	89:13 91:9,10
receiving 123:9	132:11 137:22	30:15 75:7	reported 66:11	91:21 99:4,5
recognition	138:6 139:20	81:10 99:12,18	73:1 82:21	100:2

researcher	83:19	96:5,8,10,22	Road 1:21	safest 143:8
84:20	retrospectively	96:24 97:6,8	role 38:1,11 39:4	safety 79:8
researchers	86:1	98:6 99:7	46:13 47:11,25	109:11
96:15	return 118:22	104:4 105:11	106:15 125:18	Salvador 2:4 5:4
reservations	revealing 18:12	106:1 108:7	125:19	6:18,18 8:6,8
130:10	review 5:13	111:11 112:19	room 8:15 15:1	12:4,7,11,12
reserves 155:10	18:22 53:25	113:2,5 114:16	101:19,25	13:23 14:1
residency 23:17	55:9 63:22	115:12,20	118:10,12	16:10 18:8
24:3 30:23	74:15 96:18	117:19 119:18	139:9	19:19 20:1
31:6 34:20	99:12 112:13	120:10 121:22	root 13:6 59:20	36:7 40:21
37:16 42:13	142:1 144:23	122:13 123:22	60:3	43:19 44:13,16
resident 31:5	reviewed 18:25	123:23 124:19	rotated 24:16	45:5,8,15 55:7
52:12	45:18 74:5,8	124:19,22	rotations 119:9	56:22 57:9
residents 24:14	103:9 112:1	125:3,10 126:8	rough 153:4,24	61:4,11 62:10
30:18 47:4	113:7	126:17,20	154:3	62:19 64:6,14
residual 81:15	reviewer 99:6	127:11,15	Royal 83:1	65:6,16 67:24
82:14	reviewing 18:14	128:13 129:12	RPR 1:18 155:4	68:10 69:24
resolution 50:15	18:15,21 19:12	130:18 135:24	155:19	70:1 71:11,21
Resource 126:13	21:2 47:19	137:18 139:21	rule 143:2,13	73:13,20 74:4
resources 18:24	74:11	141:24 142:8	rules 8:14 13:24	76:4 80:11,17
51:7 102:18,24	reviews 55:8	145:17,19	rump 117:1	81:19 82:4
104:15 124:2	right 8:13 11:25	148:1,8 150:24	run 38:9	87:23 88:11,19
132:5	14:6,17 16:21	153:2 154:1,9	rupture 34:24	97:16,25 103:1
respect 85:12	19:16 22:19	154:11 155:10	35:7 109:18	103:16 114:3
135:10 136:8	23:2,5,8,19,20	rights 14:5	121:12	114:11,19
respected 83:15	24:19 25:2	rings 125:11	ruptured 118:17	115:5,10
response 72:25	26:2 27:4 28:6	risk 35:21 41:3	120:15 121:24	126:22 127:3
responses 18:15	28:25 29:6,13	55:14,19,23	122:8	128:18 129:2
responsibilities	34:15 42:18	57:21 59:17	ruptures 119:15	131:2,10 134:5
38:13	43:14,21,24	60:12 70:14	119:16 121:16	141:11,17
responsibility	45:24 46:3	86:24 87:2,16	rural 139:25	142:5 153:23
47:21	48:4,21 49:17	87:20 89:8	Ryan 2:16 7:5	salvation 134:11
restricted 98:10	52:13 57:16,19	90:9,10,13	<hr/>	136:1
restrictive 67:4	58:7,15 59:8	92:1,8,18,21	S	same-day 25:21
result 27:1	59:14 60:13,18	93:4,9,11 94:9	S 2:1 5:2,7 157:1	sampling 91:6
111:10,17	61:5 64:24	94:14 96:7	sac 94:3 108:15	Sandy 124:9
results 61:23	65:24 66:6,14	97:2,5,13	108:17 117:7,8	sanitation
85:1,2 98:16	66:18 67:2,7	98:21 99:21	117:11	150:13
151:8,11,24	68:9,24 69:9	102:16 110:6	sad 41:19 85:17	satisfaction
152:4	69:13 70:7,16	110:12,20	sadly 84:4	124:25
resume 30:13	70:22 72:5,11	116:3,4,9,15	safe 29:3,5,8	save 20:6 61:15
resuscitated	72:16 74:6,9	120:2 133:15	32:8,10 71:8,9	102:25
50:9	74:17,25 75:8	133:22 152:7	72:8,18 85:1	saw 152:9
retained 101:13	75:16 76:13	riskier 56:19	116:5 147:15	saying 59:20
retention 38:20	80:2,23 81:2	risks 26:4,5	safely 95:9,14,17	93:18 105:13
retract 83:24	82:9,9,11	36:20 40:14,20	102:11 103:3	144:17 152:9
84:7	84:21 85:8	40:24 57:25	104:7,22	says 36:22 42:17
retracted 73:18	86:13 89:4	58:5 140:19	106:23	58:25 61:23
83:3,4,5,8,11	90:8 92:1	Rmendias@ac...	safer 56:15	63:13,17 64:23
retraction 83:17	94:19,22 95:19	2:19	142:25	65:23 70:3

74:15 76:22	144:4 149:15	132:15 146:17	sharing 83:22	signs 36:23,25
77:2,3,14,25	Secretary 3:24	146:19 148:22	134:11 135:25	60:1 150:12
82:11 89:4	section 69:12	148:24 149:8	sharp 29:24	silence 10:8
98:7,9 112:18	151:3	150:2 151:7,17	120:10 121:2,5	similar 73:15
115:17,18	sedation 105:21	152:3	121:7	75:3 78:11,24
116:3 125:8	105:23,25	sentences 59:10	Shealyn 2:5	simply 99:3
130:20 132:10	106:12,16	separate 35:12	Shealyn.mas...	single 96:6 116:5
135:22 137:22	107:4	separately 30:14	2:7	132:11,17
152:15,16	see 13:9 14:19	separation 35:1	sheet 82:6	133:4,5,14,20
SB20 11:24	36:24 63:13,15	sepsis 37:14	shifted 118:19	situation 33:13
12:16 16:23	63:16 64:21	September	short 48:24	33:18 108:24
scans 139:15	65:4,21 66:9	155:17	shortages	110:18 143:10
scared 85:4	66:13,14,18,21	sequentially	139:24	situations 35:11
135:17	69:4 72:5	103:24	shot 26:18	41:23 107:3
scares 85:17	74:25 75:5	serial 118:24	shoulder 120:1	six 1:21 23:14
scenario 116:25	76:15,20,21,24	143:10	show 67:7 78:15	117:2,7 118:2
117:4,5 118:15	77:18,20,20,25	serious 73:15	79:3 119:1	132:8
schedule 119:2	78:13 81:10	75:2	125:6 143:5	skeletal 139:8
scholars 23:14	85:6 86:7	seriously 152:14	showed 32:11	sleep 119:9,11
scholarships	90:21 91:11	serve 46:3	78:24	119:12
40:1	108:15,17	134:12	showing 86:12	sleeping 82:22
school 23:16,19	109:5 117:7,8	served 39:3	87:8 89:19	slow 100:11
24:14 126:3	117:11,17	service 30:23	shown 32:5 97:5	small 36:20
science 22:16	122:5,8,9,11	services 3:25 8:3	shows 78:22	81:13 82:12
23:1 38:7	122:11,12,14	128:1 135:14	91:21 99:9	121:25 146:8
125:8	122:18,19	137:24	133:14 143:16	smears 106:5
scientific 79:7	139:12 140:2	sessions 124:22	Smith 3:5	smoke 78:12
82:25 84:3,6	145:6 151:14	set 86:6 127:23	smoking 79:11	117:23 120:1
151:23 152:10	153:3	130:21	snarasimhan...	121:25 146:8
scientifically	see seeing 105:16	setting 28:19	3:3	soaking 100:25
79:2	135:6	95:18 102:3	122:18	122:18
scope 105:24	seek 82:20	103:3 104:3,9	social 87:19 89:8	98:13
107:13 137:16	132:13	104:12	135:13 136:2,3	societies 84:11
Scottsdale 4:10	seeking 132:12	settled 50:17,18	147:20 151:25	socioeconomic
scrape 29:24	seen 65:19,19	50:19	152:1 153:5	13:8 98:17
screen 62:24	104:17 117:12	seven 118:2	sides 135:7	124:14
72:12,13	120:11,17	sexual 133:8,14	136:2	solutions 13:5
screening 108:2	selected 52:14	133:15,23	sign 37:7 126:19	somebody 27:10
110:13	Senator 142:11	sexually 133:12	127:8 128:16	29:4 84:4
se 149:13	send 109:17,18	133:20,22	155:10	106:3 119:6
sec 20:7 62:21	154:6	134:4	SIGNATURE	121:12 133:23
second 30:10	sensation 121:13	Shah 5:21 97:8,9	157:22	son 11:1
36:14 50:3,6	sense 109:24	98:1	signed 127:14,18	soon 50:2 76:6
58:21 59:16	121:16	shaking 8:22	129:16	sooner 153:24
60:16 61:1	sentence 59:5	share 50:16,18	significant 83:18	sorry 7:8 11:4,9
62:9 63:10	61:25 69:15	62:24 72:11	83:19 87:2	18:6,7 25:12
68:7 71:10	70:3 72:6,16	134:8	139:8	28:7 29:4
72:9 75:23	72:19 77:25	shared 29:9	significantly	
81:18 88:13	81:16 82:10	126:6 129:22	60:17	
97:14 131:12	89:4 115:20	150:6	signing 132:19	

31:15 34:22	145:12,17	105:15 119:20	stayed 57:11	87:8 88:21
36:9 38:16	specifically 15:8	started 17:18	Stein 1:6 2:25	89:12,12,19
39:8 40:22	18:4,10 20:24	39:1 42:12,15	3:4 6:10 7:18	90:14 91:12
46:11 47:7	106:17 129:13	124:13 132:20	step 117:22	92:23 93:6
51:22 54:19,20	144:18 151:8	starting 6:14	stepped 46:7	96:19 98:18,24
58:12,18 61:15	specifics 16:19	37:24 70:24	sterile 94:8	98:25 99:13
66:2,23 69:3	22:21 91:7	98:9 111:14	stitches 105:16	100:1 134:3
69:24 70:14	spectrum 148:11	137:3	stop 32:18	study 5:11,18,19
76:5 77:7,9,18	speculum	starts 64:22	104:15	5:20,21 60:15
82:6 86:10	105:10	69:13 71:12	stopped 37:20	60:19,20,24
92:4,5,10 99:2	spent 17:13,21	82:10 116:15	42:16	61:20 66:22,23
103:10 104:20	17:23 48:16	120:9	story 151:20	66:24 67:4,12
105:7 106:1	spirituality	state 6:16 8:11	straight 123:13	67:20,24 69:5
110:2 111:4,14	135:4,8,11	11:24 24:17	strategic 47:18	70:10,20,25
113:10 121:1	split 138:22	32:25 38:18	47:19,25	71:7,25 72:6
129:25 135:25	spoke 12:21 14:4	39:18,19 53:17	Street 2:5,17 3:2	72:16,21,24
141:11 145:2	40:4 84:15	53:18,24 60:12	3:10,15,20 4:9	73:2,8,14,18
147:24 150:3	spoken 129:16	66:24 67:12	strength 86:4	74:23 75:13,18
sort 51:10	spontaneous	70:13 81:12,13	strengthens 87:8	75:20 76:9,10
107:11 137:7	27:9,18	85:21 91:25	strengths 91:9	76:11,12,25
137:12	sport 41:5	93:8 96:3,6	stress 124:24	78:1,4,17,24
sorts 14:6 57:21	Sports 38:4	99:1 111:8,12	stressful 152:5	79:13,14,15
sound 42:18	spotting 120:5	136:22 137:7	strict 137:1	80:21 81:12,13
sounded 105:8	121:24 122:16	142:23 145:11	strike 116:20	81:14,19 82:5
sounds 9:10 49:8	spouses 132:13	155:2 156:1,12	strong 87:10	82:13,18 83:2
90:18,25 94:18	squeezes 101:11	statement 5:24	129:21 135:21	83:3,4,5,16,17
source 44:1 60:5	Sripiya 3:1 7:17	59:7 70:20,23	151:9,11	84:7,23 85:18
105:16	SSRIs 32:5	78:9 91:23	stronger 91:12	85:18,20 86:7
sources 15:19	stable 118:21,21	95:23 115:24	strongest 78:20	86:11,19 87:5
21:20 22:4	stack 68:20	127:24 128:7	struggle 79:4,24	87:18,21,23
53:13 54:17	71:20 88:8	128:19 129:9	80:6	88:10,25 90:18
55:11 59:7	staff 137:10	129:11 130:18	struggled	91:1,3,15 93:7
74:12	139:11	134:15,22	151:22	96:10,12 97:8
South 1:3 2:8,13	stage 13:20	135:16,21,24	struggles 87:3	97:11,14,24
6:9,20 7:12 8:9	34:16 89:7	138:2	student 7:4	98:1 148:16
19:7	stand 47:1,1,3	statements	38:24 39:6,9	150:18,21
southern 103:10	113:20	138:12	39:23 50:21,22	151:7,18,20
speak 15:15	standard 10:13	states 1:1 6:7	students 24:13	152:16
18:17 129:13	110:12 112:9	13:4 38:19	24:15 30:18,21	studying 89:21
130:8	130:21	53:9,11,12	31:8 38:21	stuff 85:2
Speaker 142:11	standards 5:25	54:1,2 62:5	39:9,11,19,24	Sturkie 4:19 7:3
speaking 13:23	130:22 131:18	63:8,25 66:11	40:4 47:4	subheading
13:24 19:11	131:23 133:3	66:25,25 86:17	50:24 51:15,17	115:18
84:6 113:20	134:7 135:24	97:3 103:11	studied 32:13,14	subject 52:24
116:13	137:4,20	127:22 134:7	studies 32:11	136:20 156:5
special 11:1	standpoint	144:2,19	38:4,14 44:21	submit 85:13
specialist 33:23	23:12 91:9	145:24 146:14	67:9,11 73:11	submitted 11:8
140:3	132:1	148:18	78:17 80:19	11:9,10 20:12
specific 16:24	start 6:12 8:13	statistic 56:10	81:9 83:14	20:16 21:18,25
28:20 49:18	10:13 36:9	stay 137:15	84:12 86:3,3	subscribed

156:15	51:8,18 55:18	suspect 142:25	83:24 84:1,14	154:10
subsequently	56:3,21 58:22	suspected 27:1	96:15 114:4	tedious 76:5
63:18	61:1,3 62:14	110:9,16,22	121:6 125:7	teenagers 89:6
subsidized	62:22 64:5,20	114:14 115:21	135:3,4 139:3	89:16
135:15	68:22 71:10	115:25 116:2,6	139:5 140:9,15	tell 62:20 92:16
subspecialty	72:15 74:15	116:12	140:18	113:18 116:7
58:3	75:12,21 77:13	suspicion 109:2	talked 14:9	119:13 132:19
substance 10:15	79:12 80:25	109:3,15	15:11,24 16:18	138:12,13
18:18 75:15	81:5 87:22	110:24,25	48:23 59:22	143:25 146:9
79:5,23	89:24 95:23	111:1,1 119:11	85:22 100:4	146:19 147:22
substantial	97:15 106:14	143:19,20	102:6 130:8	tells 9:23
146:11	109:5 110:14	Swanson 2:9 7:6	140:20	term 27:7,7 30:2
suction 30:2	110:17,19	7:8,10,11	talking 8:10	30:3 37:9
101:20	111:25 114:18	switch 53:2	13:22 16:22	38:16 55:14,19
suffering 121:1	117:17 119:6	100:4 107:19	25:7 30:12	55:22 92:22
121:12	121:6 122:24	switched 55:16	31:11 39:11	93:12 101:6
suggest 43:7	123:4,7 126:12	92:4	48:16 50:25	termination
suggested 82:12	127:7,10 129:5	sworn 6:2 8:5	69:6 76:13	72:7,17 89:5
suggests 59:15	130:18 131:13	155:7 156:15	78:16 81:16	98:12
suicidal 75:16	132:25 138:5	symptoms 110:5	85:7,9,10,19	terminology
79:5,24 86:23	139:17 153:19	110:20	88:9 90:18	27:16 121:15
87:4,11,16	154:9	synced 153:13	93:16,22 99:9	terms 28:21 29:9
suicidality 86:21	surgeries 25:25	syndrome 30:1	103:6 112:20	46:19 47:15,22
suicide 86:12,23	26:18	system 38:17,22	118:19,20	54:21 59:9
87:2,5,17,20	surgery 25:2,4,7	56:2 73:5	132:16 133:21	87:20 100:20
89:6,17	25:21 28:3	systemic 107:12	142:21 144:5,9	100:22 101:2
suicides 89:16	118:14	T	151:16	104:16 122:15
Suite 1:22 2:11	surgical 25:21	T 5:2,7 157:1,1	talks 22:13	128:9 139:22
3:6,15	25:23 72:8,17	tab 111:5	122:2	149:15
summary 65:20	73:16 75:4	table 66:9,9,13	tallied 17:16	test 117:15,25
summer 37:25	104:18 140:18	66:15,18,19	taught 30:17,21	132:3
supervise 107:4	surprise 122:20	125:22 146:3	38:7,10,12	tested 143:15
107:6	122:24 123:7	take 9:17,19	119:9	testified 6:2
supervised	123:10	14:22 24:21	teach 30:22 31:7	11:12,20,23
24:18	surprised	33:23 44:11	38:11	13:13 74:5
support 12:23	123:15,17	45:5 76:9 80:8	teaching 31:7	testify 12:19
13:7,11 40:7,8	surprising	91:11 96:18	team 46:6,11,13	testimony 11:22
78:1 102:20	147:12	107:1 116:13	47:10,11	12:5,8,13,16
124:1 149:11	surveillance	141:5,8 143:15	102:20	12:24 13:16
151:9,11	5:14 65:1,8,18	152:10,14	teams 102:21	14:13 18:18
supported 12:20	66:3 145:23	153:20,25	tear 104:23,24	140:4 142:13
12:22,25 83:25	survey 146:16	taken 6:14 10:18	tears 103:18	155:6,7 156:5
sure 11:23 14:3	survive 34:9,13	45:12 50:5	104:6,8,17,21	testing 108:4
18:6,9,14 20:8	34:17 35:17	80:14 114:8	TECHNICIAN	tests 143:1,4
20:14,19 30:11	survived 37:4	141:14 155:5,8	6:3 8:4 45:10	text 90:7
30:16 34:8	surviving 33:10	155:13	45:13 80:10,12	thank 7:10 8:4,7
36:8,17 38:3	Susan 1:12,18	talk 9:1 39:8	80:15 114:6,9	8:13 13:12
40:9 42:14	6:1,13 8:12	40:13 42:1	141:12,15	14:16,25 15:5
44:13 45:7	155:4,19 156:1	51:14 52:1,2,5	153:2,7,14,19	18:1 20:17
47:23,23 50:6	156:10		153:22 154:1,7	21:24 22:4,15

26:1,10 28:18	38:4 39:1	124:11	19:13 154:11	treat 33:12,12
32:19 35:4	41:19,22 42:14	threatened	told 33:16 52:11	94:13 95:18
41:25 45:10,16	42:17,21 43:1	27:10	tongue 65:4	100:5 143:8
45:20 49:19	45:1 46:2	three 11:23	top 53:16 55:12	treated 39:9
51:2 53:2	47:22 48:14	108:5 126:8,9	60:8 65:23	94:18,21 95:8
64:18 65:5	52:19 63:1	126:10,16	86:18 101:10	95:14 96:2
66:22 70:9	67:18 69:22	127:8,13 128:6	119:4,14 148:1	101:16 102:10
74:21 77:12	79:6,9 84:10	128:12,12	148:9	103:2,17 104:7
79:22 80:8,10	84:11 90:4,19	129:10 131:22	topics 16:14	104:21
81:12 96:3	94:6 95:8,10	134:15 137:14	17:2	treating 117:22
97:3 105:19	95:13,15,22,22	138:23 141:2	total 23:14	treatment 27:17
111:4 120:25	95:25 100:19	141:19 149:11	totally 9:13	39:11 59:23
122:20 125:11	101:12,12	throwing 105:15	tradition 129:20	94:24 95:2
126:7 129:1	102:10,12,14	Thursday 6:5	traditionally	101:15 111:10
130:12 134:6	102:17,22	Thursdays	34:9	111:18
138:22 141:10	103:2,5,22	139:1	tragedy 33:15	tremendous
142:7,11	104:21,23,25	time 34:10,14	train 100:18	80:3 84:5
152:23,25	105:1,16	37:24 38:11	trained 36:23	trends 150:14
153:21 154:4	106:13,14	41:23,24 42:10	106:17 126:2	trial 79:18
154:10	107:12 108:8	45:11,14 48:24	137:2 138:17	tried 83:24
Thanks 10:18	108:10 109:25	49:7,15 50:11	training 48:12	tries 85:4,11
19:11 24:3	112:9 113:7,16	51:13 55:16	48:20,20 84:9	trimester 59:16
100:3 126:16	119:3 121:5,20	60:20 67:19	137:10,17,17	60:17 109:20
137:19	123:16 124:15	69:3 80:13,16	137:17 141:23	trouble 41:13
theology 126:4	124:21 125:14	90:22 108:21	142:1	78:25
thereto 155:15	126:2 129:20	109:2,7 114:7	trainings 48:9	true 57:10 75:18
thing 18:15	130:4,5 133:12	114:10 117:4	transcript 8:20	84:10 122:17
20:25 49:1	133:14 134:23	122:23 123:5	8:25 153:4,17	134:15 138:2
56:2 81:22	135:16,20	133:24 136:10	153:24 154:4	146:24 156:4
83:18 84:16	136:17,24	138:22 141:13	155:10 156:4	truly 147:15
92:24 97:18	137:4,8,9	141:16 142:12	157:20	trust 133:25
114:24 139:23	141:4 142:15	152:14,23	transfer 33:20	truth 84:21
things 14:7,21	142:20 144:9	times 10:21	33:21	truthfully 8:16
19:9 20:25	147:4,6,8	11:23 28:3	transferred	55:5
22:14 25:9	151:16 152:3	34:19 36:18,25	34:23	try 20:5 62:21
26:19 29:8	152:15,16,19	41:10 70:13,14	transfers 34:21	62:24 67:20
34:25 40:1	152:22	101:20 103:22	transfusion	85:4 104:9,12
47:16 79:24	thinker 16:17	110:24 139:24	102:18	104:25 120:21
81:8 94:10	thinking 95:25	tip 65:3	transient 108:23	125:24 136:14
101:23 108:5	third 14:10	title 46:5,6 65:21	transition	139:15,23
108:12 122:1	149:19	125:6,8 127:12	149:23	140:1
130:5 132:24	Thorpe 15:12,15	tobacco 152:11	transmitted	trying 38:21
133:2 136:14	45:18	152:13	133:22	68:8 72:9 81:6
140:12,19	thought 16:1	today 6:21 7:3	transportation	95:21 96:17
150:12,13	21:4 50:11,16	8:8,15,20	59:25 150:12	99:10,11
think 12:7,10,18	118:12 129:22	10:16 18:10,19	transvaginal	103:22 104:24
12:20 15:7,13	130:7	22:12 85:23	114:15 115:21	111:4 136:16
19:4 24:1	thousand 24:19	124:24 140:20	116:11	tubal 26:18
25:23 29:8	56:5	142:12	traumas 100:17	43:21 113:1
30:2 32:11	thousands	today's 18:1,11	traumatic 152:6	114:13 115:11

116:14 119:17	ultrasonograp...	107:15	147:3 151:25	vessels 101:6,11
tube 107:23	139:5,9	unfettered 13:3	152:1	viability 34:8
tubes 106:8	ultrasonograp...	unfortunately	uses 54:18 55:12	viable 28:3
119:18	137:14	78:25 91:12	108:3 111:21	117:11
Tuesday 153:11	ultrasound	109:6,19	112:11	video 6:4 45:11
Tuesdays	27:12 41:14	unidirectional	usually 30:2	45:14 80:13,16
138:25	50:6 108:1,3,5	78:1	33:6,22 35:15	114:7,10
turn 10:6 22:8	111:9,17 112:7	Union 2:16,21	94:11 95:20	141:13,16
148:21	112:23 114:15	United 1:1 6:7	103:21 108:15	153:3,4,12,15
Turnaway 90:18	115:21 116:11	13:4 63:8	117:1,5 118:11	153:18 154:12
90:25 91:3,15	116:18,19	66:11 86:16	120:4,17	videographer
turned 10:2,10	117:15,17	144:2,19	140:14	4:21 10:3
52:20 103:8	118:3,7,25	145:24 146:14	uterine 26:6	Videographers
turning 10:8	122:1,3,11,22	University 23:1	100:13 101:9	1:20
twins 49:24,25	123:1 139:4,12	23:5,18 30:14	101:22 102:16	VIDEOTAPE
two 12:18 20:25	143:5,7,11,12	30:17 37:18	107:22	6:3 8:4 45:10
22:13 23:10	143:15,17	unknown	uterus 26:8 94:6	45:13 80:10,12
40:18 41:7	ultrasounds	108:22,23	101:5,10,11,23	80:15 114:6,9
42:16 44:14	41:11 108:14	109:10,12	102:16 122:5	141:12,15
46:2 47:17	116:21,23	110:3,19 112:6	<hr/>	153:2,7,14,19
55:9 56:1 72:7	123:9	117:20 120:23	<hr/>	153:22 154:1,7
72:17 81:7	umbrella 27:7	143:7,18	V	154:10
92:15,16 113:8	unaware 141:3	unmarried	vacuum-assist...	view 43:11
119:18 128:9	UNC 7:3 24:15	133:8	31:20	violence 77:3,14
130:20 135:7	uncontrolled	unofficial 51:11	vagina 105:14	virtual 47:17
136:2	57:25 58:1,1	unplanned 13:8	122:6	visionary 47:20
two-week 30:22	81:15 82:14	41:9,15 51:18	vaginal 25:5	visualization 105:15
type 25:4 27:4,8	underestimates	90:20,21 124:1	50:1 92:24	visualize 104:10
66:11 78:8	53:5	unreliable 44:25	101:3 104:11	104:13
85:15 87:5	underreporting	unstable 118:13	105:9 122:15	vital 36:25 53:17
93:25 120:5,22	147:19,25	118:16,20	53:18,19	53:18,19
121:3	understand 8:14	unwanted 82:19	volume 6:12	voluntary 53:10
types 26:15 27:6	9:6,20,25	90:20 98:20	53:12,19	53:12,19
47:5 57:23	10:16 39:17,20	update 113:6,7,9	147:10,20	147:10,20
105:25 140:12	40:20 51:15	updated 108:9	volunteer 30:23	41:9,11 128:2
140:16	99:18 110:17	108:11 113:8	132:21	132:21
typewriting	128:12 139:17	updating 47:19	volunteered	30:20
155:9	144:15 147:15	137:4	vs 1:5	30:20
typically 13:8	understanding	urged 132:12	vulnerable 89:7	30:20
27:15 33:5	20:24 34:11	uro 25:12	vulvar 107:10	30:20
35:11 39:25	46:15 48:2	urogynecologi...	<hr/>	W
41:4 92:14,16	55:13,18	25:6,11	W 3:5	
95:21 101:18	111:21 112:5	use 15:19 30:3	wait 9:1,2 35:25	
102:7 118:2	112:11 140:8	32:16 61:3	36:8,10 37:5	
119:18 120:9	understood 9:8	63:4 76:6 79:5	118:2	
121:2	11:5 14:25	79:24 82:22		
	31:11 41:25	101:19 105:21		
<hr/>	45:4 46:13	106:5 107:4,6		
U-r-o 25:12	51:2,18 67:23	107:8 112:2		
Uh-huh 68:12	73:19 105:19	121:14 123:12		

waiting 36:9 37:14	way 8:15 11:6 15:1 99:11	130:13 153:1 well-being 79:8 went 23:12 38:12	87:3,15 90:12 92:14 93:1,18 93:25 95:11 100:10 108:25 111:12 116:7	wording 142:15 words 56:23 121:20 work 16:8 21:11 23:15 24:4 26:12,12,20 30:12,13,23 31:14,16,18 37:17,18,21 38:19,23 41:8 41:23 42:1,21 43:2,3 44:4,9 45:6 46:19 49:12 62:24 82:24 84:5 123:19 127:13 128:7 129:10 131:22 132:21 134:16 136:20 137:3,6 138:3 138:8,23 140:22,24 141:9,19 143:11 153:6 17:18 22:22 37:20 41:15 132:20 37:20 41:15 132:20 works 33:17 44:15 world 48:18 worried 50:4 118:17 worst 57:24 wouldn't 40:19 43:4 44:8 52:7 84:6 94:3 99:16,22 109:12 152:17 write 21:6 58:12 75:1 106:25 writing 22:1 written 17:16 74:22 130:3 137:23 138:4 wrong 41:22 84:3 142:22 wrote 51:19,22
Wake 6:23	103:14 121:9	were 23:16 151:5	120:12 121:14	
walk 135:19	123:7 134:23	West 3:2,10,20	120:12 121:14	
walks 116:8	135:12 136:5	white 59:11 60:2	121:23 122:10	
wall 100:13	136:24 143:8	wholeness 47:5 140:5	132:2 133:8,17 133:20 139:23	
want 9:13 13:18 28:2 36:13 39:15 40:17 41:16,17 42:1 43:5 47:5 51:20,21 68:23 74:13 79:1,7 81:7 85:1,6 88:23 89:13 90:2 92:16 98:25 99:17,22 102:23 106:14 109:23 110:14 121:20 133:18 135:3,5,10,12 136:5 139:17 140:5,15 142:16,16 143:20 145:10 146:7 151:5 152:15,18 153:6,10	120:12 ways 120:12 we'll 9:17 22:21 26:10 42:7 75:22 79:12,13 92:14 141:5 144:9 153:19 153:20 we're 8:10,13,25 37:6 53:2 56:11 63:7 70:9 74:23 78:13 81:21 82:17 86:9,11 87:25 88:20 92:6 93:16 96:4 97:18 100:3 107:10 107:19 114:3 114:23 123:2 123:18,19 125:19 133:13 136:8,25 wanted 28:11,22 33:25 40:2 41:23 45:17 51:14,17 79:12 83:8 85:16 90:1,16,16 152:13 wanting 20:6 wants 95:12 116:5 132:3 135:3 Ward 3:5 warning 60:1 150:12 Washington 2:11 wasn't 11:4 20:5 39:2 41:24 83:22 146:7 watch 36:23 Waterlife 126:14	wide 93:2 William 2:5 Williams 3:15 7:7,9,13,13 willing 134:20 Wilson 126:12 Winston-Salem 3:16 wish 84:1 157:20 witness 8:5 10:22,23,23 11:13 15:6 18:6 36:3,5,13 40:13 43:16 45:7 48:9,19 48:21 55:3 57:3 62:14 64:13 65:15 we've 98:2 3:7 Website 138:16 Wednesdays 139:1 week 17:21,23 22:13 38:25 139:5 weekends 139:13 weekers 37:3 weekly 65:24 145:22 weeks 33:6 37:1 37:4 108:15 117:2,2,7,9 118:2 weight 98:15 126:14 welcome 105:20	24:18,19 31:23 32:4,13 33:8 39:15 41:9,15 41:16,18,21,23 56:9 57:15,18 57:23 58:4,6 58:14 59:2,4 59:10,11,18,21 60:2,16,21 62:1 63:18 67:19 73:4 78:22 79:4,6,8 80:3,4,6,7,22 85:1 89:7 90:19,22,22 94:4 96:2 68:7 69:25 71:19 73:7 74:3 76:3 81:23 82:3 88:6,8,13,16 97:19,24 102:14 103:5 115:4,9 129:1 131:9 133:11 134:18 141:10 141:23 144:11 144:13 153:1 154:14 155:6,8 155:10 witnesses 18:16 112:20 woman 25:8 27:14 35:18 41:15 49:16 57:25 59:18	123:19 127:13 128:7 129:10 131:22 132:21 134:16 136:20 137:3,6 138:3 138:8,23 140:22,24 141:9,19 143:11 153:6 17:18 22:22 37:20 41:15 132:20 37:20 41:15 132:20 works 33:17 44:15 world 48:18 worried 50:4 118:17 worst 57:24 wouldn't 40:19 43:4 44:8 52:7 84:6 94:3 99:16,22 109:12 152:17 write 21:6 58:12 75:1 106:25 writing 22:1 written 17:16 74:22 130:3 137:23 138:4 wrong 41:22 84:3 142:22 wrote 51:19,22

Wubbenhorst	Zealand 152:16	113:5,8 115:11	212-541-7800	50 13:2 53:9
91:14	Zoom 114:19	122:2	2:6	56:10 109:7
www.discover...	0	193 108:10,11	212-549-2633	110:11
1:25	0.43 66:20	112:10,22	2:18	500 17:12
X	0.7 60:22 62:2	113:7	22 37:1,3	500 92:25
X 5:1,2,7	1	1973 66:11	24 139:15	101:3
Y	1 34:21	1987 22:17	244 77:7	5th 155:17
y'all 76:7	1,000 24:18	23:12	245 76:25 77:9	6
yeah 29:7 32:9	1:23-cv-00480...	1988 61:25	25 58:18,19	6 5:4
35:19 39:15	6:11	1989 23:2	60:10	6:29 141:13
42:10 51:3	10 12:17,20,20	1995 23:5	27 66:5 145:25	6:36 141:16
56:13 59:15	17:23 45:6	1997 23:7,12	146:1,3	6:57 154:12,16
68:7,16 76:19	69:8 80:11	42:17 61:25	27101 3:16	60 51:16 134:25
80:24 88:8,23	94:7 95:24	2	27602-0629 3:21	600 3:15
93:16 94:17	148:21,22,24	2:05 1:13 6:5	27603 3:2,11	61 5:11 111:6,8
95:20 100:18	152:16	20 37:4 78:12	27609 1:23	62 5:12 112:15
109:8 114:3	10-year 23:11	20.7 64:1,24	27611 2:23	64 5:13
117:13 118:16	100 3:15	200 102:9 103:2	28 88:14,14	65 5:14 56:7
125:11,15	100,000 60:22	103:6,7,15	28004 2:23	660 74:25
133:5 134:18	62:2,6 63:14	20005 2:11	68 5:15	69.9 63:19
136:3 137:12	63:19 64:1	2001 23:21	3:07 45:11	7
137:21 138:13	66:15,20 146:5	31:12 42:12,15	3:17 45:14	70 33:10 39:24
138:24 142:21	146:13	2007 64:22	30 80:23 106:21	51:17
150:5 153:10	1000 1:22	2010 31:12	300 2:11 3:6	70s 33:8
year 30:22 38:9	10004 2:18	37:16,23	31 1:13 6:5	71 5:16
42:16 47:13	10038 2:6	2011 37:24	32 66:24 148:18	73 5:17
50:23 51:13	101 30:23	2013 49:4 66:20	32.9 62:6 63:14	75 5:18
83:21 125:2	11 145:5,6	146:4	33 66:24 68:8,13	751 3:6
148:12	1110 2:10	2016 63:25	336-722-3700	798 72:3,10,14
yearly 31:23	1119 89:2	64:22,24	3:16	8
years 13:2 22:23	114 3:2,10,20	144:22	35 56:8,10 70:12	80 33:10
23:15,16 24:7	115 5:22	201826800211	70:17 92:1,6	800-835-5233
34:20 35:2,2	12 58:10,20	155:20	37 96:4 97:4	4:11
38:14 39:1	64:18,21	2019 66:12,20	39 75:10 80:19	80s 33:9
41:7,10,13	12-week 139:6	146:4	82:18 86:10	81 5:19
42:11 44:8	123 2:5	202-973-4800	4	85260 4:10
46:2 78:12	125 2:17	2:12	4:18 80:13	87 23:13
95:24 143:9	126 5:23	2020 49:5 65:2	4:29 80:16	88 5:20
145:12	128 5:24	65:18 66:3	40 86:11 88:14	89 23:13
Yesterday	131 5:25	145:24	4208 1:21	
124:23	14 90:5	2021 5:12 42:17	43 146:4,5	
yolk 117:8,11	142 5:5	62:5,11 63:8	450 82:5 150:23	9
York 2:6,6,18,18	1438 98:4	63:14,17,22	151:3	90s 124:15
young 34:13	15 66:10 114:1	144:2,11,16		90th 4:9
	15100 4:9	2022 145:23		919-277-9187
	18th 2:17	2023 1:13 6:5		3:7
Zao 5:21 97:9	19 5:10	155:17	5:29 114:7	919-354-5066
98:1	191 108:9,10	21/22 126:3	5:40 114:10	2:24

919-424-8242			
1:24			
919-716-0091			
3:21			
919-716-6421			
3:3			
919-716-6600			
3:11			
93 97:5			
97 5:21			
9th 2:5			